GAZETTEER OF INDIA
KERALA

QUILON

KERALA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

QUILON

By

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Trivandrum

Price Rs. 15.50

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRESSES
AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, TRIVANDRUM.
1964

Copies are available in the
Government Presses at Trivandrum, Ernakulam
and Shoranur.

PREFACE

The Imperial Gazetteer of India (1908), the District Gazetteers and the State Manuals published several decades ago have become obsolete and out-of-date. The work of revising and rewriting them has therefore been taken up as a national project which is being implemented by the Government of India, the State Governments and the Administrations of the Union Territories. Under this scheme the Imperial Gazetteer of India is being revised and published in four volumes under the title "Gazetteer of India: Indian Union", and new District Gazetteers are being brought out for about 335 Districts in the country. It is hoped that the Gazetteers, revised or newly written, would present a true and comprehensive picture of Indian life in all its richness and variety.

The scheme of contents of the District Gazetteers and the organisational set-up for the execution of the project have been drawn up by the Government of India on a uniform basis in order to exercise unified central direction and control over the project. In July 1958 the Government of Kerala in the Education Department approved of a scheme for the compilation of Gazetteers for all the nine Districts of the State, and appointed me as State Editor in charge of the scheme. In February 1959 an Advisory Board for the Kerala Gazetteers was constituted with the Minister for Education as *ex-officio* Chairman and the following as members.

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14. Dr. V. K. Sukumaran Nair, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in Politics, University of Kerala, Trivandrum.

15. One representative of the Kerala Sahithya Akademi, Trichur*.
16. Editor, Indian Gazetteers, New Delhi or his nominee.
17. State Editor, Kerala Gazetteers (Convener).

The District Gazetteer of Quilon is the fourth in the series of Kerala District Gazetteers to be compiled and published, the earlier ones in the series being those of Trivandrum, Trichur and Kozhikode published in 1962. The scheme of contents of this volume also follows broadly the pattern laid down by the Central Gazetteers Unit in the Department of Science, Ministry of Education, New Delhi. The draft of the Quilon volume was ready in April 1963 and it received the approval of the Government of India for publication in August. With some changes effected in the draft in the light of the suggestions made by the Editor, Indian Gazetteers, New Delhi, the volume was sent to the press in October. The draft has undergone some minor changes even in the course of printing as it was considered desirable to incorporate some of the latest information and data received since the volume was sent to the press. The Census data of 1961 are given in the text only to the extent they have been available. A Bibliography, a Glossary, an Index, two maps and a number of illustrations have been included in order to make the publication more attractive and useful to the general reader.

As in the District Gazetteers published earlier in the series, the historical portion has been given ample attention in this volume also. The Chapter on the history of the District may be read in the background of the general history of Kerala

*Sri P. K. Sivasankara Pillai, Assistant Secretary, Kerala Sahithya Akademi, represents that organisation on the Board.

the broad outlines of which have already emerged in the District Gazetteers of Trivandrum, Trichur and Kozhikode. The Chapter is, however, intended to serve primarily as a supplement to the History Chapter of the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, supplying some of the links missing in that volume. In the compilation of this Chapter I have made full use of the old and revised editions of the *Travancore State Manual* by V. Nagam Aiya and T. K. Velu Pillai. But in bringing the story up-to-date in the light of the latest advances in the field of historical research, the works of Prof. Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai and Sardar K. M. Panikkar have been of great help.

In the compilation of this volume I have received hearty co-operation and assistance from various sources and I avail myself of this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to all those individuals and institutions who helped me in my work. Some of the sections of Chapter I were contributed by specialists in the field or by concerned Departments of the Government of India. The account on Flora was supplied by Dr. A. Abraham, Professor of Botany, University of Kerala, Trivandrum and Sri S. P. Joseph, Curator, Central Herbarium, Department of Botany, University College, Trivandrum and that on Fauna by Dr. A. P. Mathew, Retired Professor of Zoology, University College, Trivandrum. The section on Geography was compiled by Sri S. Muthukrishna Karayalar, Retired Professor of Geography, Training College, Trivandrum, with the particulars supplied by the District Collector, Quilon. The materials for the sections on Geology and Climate were supplied by the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta and the Meteorological Department of India, Poona respectively.

I must express my sincere thanks to the members of the Advisory Board for the Kerala Gazetteers, who

scrutinised various chapters or portions of this volume and helped me with their valuable suggestions. I am also indebted to Sri P. D. Nair, Retired Director of Agriculture, Trivandrum and Dr. N. Krishnan Tampi, Retired Director of Public Health, Trivandrum who perused the chapters on "Agriculture and Irrigation" and "Medical and Public Health Services" respectively and offered several helpful suggestions. My thanks are further due to the Department of Statistics and Economics which furnished some of the Tables included in this volume and also to the Department of Survey and Land Records, Kerala State which prepared and printed the two maps included herein. I am also obliged to Sri C. K. Kochukoshy, I.A.S. District Collector, Quilon, for having perused portions of the draft volume and offered some useful suggestions.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge my thanks to Dr. S. V. Desika Char, Editor, Indian Gazetteers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, New Delhi, for their role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The Unit did a remarkable job in scrutinising the draft of this volume, and made several concrete suggestions with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication.

My thanks are further due to the staff of the Gazetteers Department who worked as a team to help me in the compilation of this Gazetteer. Sarvasree K. K. Ramachandran Nair B.A., A. Balakrishnan M.A., G. Ravindran Nair M.A., M. Abdul Aziz M.A., T. S. Nesan M.A., and B. Vivekanandan M.A., who comprised the technical staff of Research Assistants helped a great deal in giving final shape to this volume. I must also record my appreciation of the services rendered by Sri N. Raghavan, Steno-Typist, who helped me in all stages of the work

connected with the compilation and printing of this volume. Sri P. Balakrishnan Nair, Head Typist, Sri P. Thomas, Sri M. Abdul Rahiman, Smt. P. Sulochana Bai and Smt. S. Radhamma, Typists, Sri P. S. Raja Raja Varma B.A., Clerk and Sarvasree K. Janardhanan and M. Kochahammed Pillai, Peons, also co-operated with me in all stages of the work and I must record my sincere appreciation of the services rendered by them too.

Above all, I should also express my thanks to Sri K. Swaminathan, Superintendent, Government Presses, and the concerned staff of the Government Press, Trivandrum, for taking a keen interest in the printing of this volume and seeing it through the press in record time.

Trivandrum,
January 1, 1964.

A. Sreedhara Menon.

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QUILON DISTRICT GAZETTEER

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Origin of the name of the District

The Quilon District derives its name from the location of its headquarters in Quilon town. The term Quilon is the anglicised form of the Malayalam word Kollam. The place has been referred to by early writers by different names. "Cosmos (6th century) calls it Male; Solyman (851), Koulam malay; Benjamin of Tudela (1166), Chulam; the Chinese annals, quoted by Pauthier in his edition of Marco Polo, Kiulan; Abulfeda (1273), Coilon or Coilun; Marco Polo (1298), Rashiduddin (1300), and Wassaf (1310), Kulam; Friar Odoric (1322), Polumbum; the Palatine MS. of Odoric (same date), Colonbio; Jordanus (1328), Columbum; Letter of Pope John XXII to the Christians of Quilon (1330), Columbo; Ibn Batuta (1343), Kaulam; John Marignolli (1348), Columbum; Nicolo Conti (1430), Coloen; Varthema (1510), Colon; Barbosa (1516), Coulam, and Sammario Ramusio, Colour; and G. D. Empoli (1530), Colam."[1]

There are different views regarding the derivation of the name Kollam. Some writers maintain that the place was named after some great event which took place here giving birth to the new era called Kollam Era. Yet others believe that Kollam is so called because it was really a *Kolam* or *Kulam*, i.e., a tank. There is also a view that Kollam was named after *Kolu* which means "a height" or "high ground". Some others would suggest that Kollam is a compound of the two words *Ko* and *Illam*, *Ko* meaning a king and *Illam*, a palace. Accord- to this view the place name would mean "the king's palace". The town is also said to have derived its name from *Kol* (i.e. to slay), meaning thereby a place where some great slaughter took place. It has also been suggested that the name might

1 *History of Kerala*, Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 271.

have had a Chinese origin as Quilon port had close contacts with the Chinese in the past and was their chief sea port in Kerala. "Coilon or Columbum is said to mean a great market in the Chinese language. This is the word which presumably finds expression in the place name of Colombo or Cholon, an Indo-Chinese town founded and named by the Chinese".[1] There is also a view that Kollam might have been named after Kollapuri (modern Kolhapur) by the Namboothiri immigrants who came here from northern and central India some time in the 8th century A.D., i.e., before the beginning of the Kollam Era[2]. Thus the last word on the origin of the name Quilon does not yet seem to have been said.

Location, General Boundaries, Total Area and Population

The Quilon District is situated on the South West Coast of India. It extends from latitude 9° 28′ N. to 8° 45′ N. and longitude 76° 28′ to 77° 17′ E. The District is bounded on the North by the Alleppey and Kottayam Districts, on the east by the Thirunelveli District of Madras State, on the South by the Trivandrum District and on the West by the Arabian Sea. At its longest point it extends 52 miles from east to west and 48 miles from north to south.

The total area of the District is 1981.9 sq. miles.[3] According to the Census of 1951 its total population was 14,84,783 while according to tne final figures of 1961 Census it is 19,41,228. In 1951 Quilon got the 5th rank in population among the Districts of Kerala State, but in 1961 it gets the 2nd rank.

History of the District as an Administrative Unit and changes in its component parts

The present Quilon District was historically a part of erstwhile Travancore State. Though the District as it is constituted today came into existence only on the 17th August 1957, the history of Quilon as an administrative unit may be traced back to earlier days. In 1835 Travancore State consisted of two Revenue Divisions, viz., the Southern and the

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1 *Ancient Kerala,* Komattil Achyutha Menon, p. 135.

2 *Annathe Keralam,* Prof.Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai pp. 139-140.

3 This is the area of the District according to the *Statistical Outline of Kerala State* (1960) published by the Department of Statistics. The Superintendent of Census Operations, Kerala State, (1961) gives two separate figures for the area of the District, viz., 1944 square miles supplied by the Surveyor General, India and 1827.3 square miles supplied by the State Survey Department.

Northern divisions with their headquarters at Quilon and Kottayam respectively, and each Division was under a District Officer called *Dewan Peishkar*. There were occasional changes since then in the component parts of these Divisions and the arrangements made for their administration. At the time of the integration of the princely States of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 there were three Revenue Divisions in Travancore viz., Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam each of which was under a *Division Peishkar*. With the inauguration of the United State of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 the Revenue Divisions came to be formally called Districts and they were placed under District Collectors. Thus the Quilon District formally came into existence and the Division Peishkar was redesignated District Collector. The District at this time consisted of 12 Taluks, viz., Quilon, Kottarakara, Pathanapuram, Shencottah, Kunnathur, Pathanamthitta, Karthikapally, Karunagapally, Mavelikara, Thiruvalla, Ambalapuzha and Shertallai and had an area of 2,729.6 sq. miles. With the reorganisation of States on linguistic lines on 1st November 1956 a part of the Shencottah Taluk was merged in the neighbouring State of Madras.[1] At the same time the Thiruvalla Taluk was bifurcated and a new Taluk, viz., Chengannur was formed.[2] When the new District of Alleppey was constituted by the Government on 17th August 1957 the Taluks of Shertallai, Ambalapuzha, Karthikapally, Mavelikara, Chengannur and Thiruvalla were detached from the Quilon District and included in the new District.[3] With this the area of the District was considerably reduced and the Quilon District as it is constituted today came into existence.

Administrative Sub-Divisions

The District at present consists of two Revenue Divisions, 6 Taluks and 99 revenue Villages. The Revenue Divisions are Quilon and Adur. The former comprises of Quilon, Kottarakara and Karunagapally Taluks and the latter of Kunnathur, Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta Taluks. Table I gives the Taluk-wise area, population and number of revenue Villages in the District.

1 The Shencottah Taluk was partly an enclave in Thirunelveli District and the percentage of Tamil speaking population in this taluk was 93%.

2 Vide G.P.(B)2-2117|54 RD. dated October 8, 1956.

3 Vide Order No. B2-1670|57|RD dated 13th August 1957.

TABLE I.

Statement showing the Taluk-wise area, population and number of villages.

	Taluks	*Population* 1961	*Area sq.miles*	*Number of Villages.* *
1.	Quilon	525,590	146.8	19
2.	Pathanapuram	247,737	473.3	16
3.	Pathanamthitta	333,310	925.8	19
4.	Kottarakara	331,361	211.6	18
5.	Kunnathur	238,043	149.6	16
6.	Karunagapally	265,187	74.8	11

TOPOGRAPHY

Natural divisions, Elevation, etc.

On the basis of physical features, the Quilon District may be divided into three natural divisions:—the lowland bordering the sea-coast, the midland consisting of the undulating country of low hills and valleys east of the lowlands, and lastly the forestclad highlands on the extreme east. The elevation of the land gradually increases from the sea-coast as it goes eastwards, and finally reaches the western ghats, the average height of which is about 4000 ft. above sea level.

The height of the ghats generally decreases from north to south. There are several peaks above 5000 ft. in height and the highest is 5723 ft. above sea-level. The heights are generally lower in Pathanapuram Taluk, and in the southeast part of the district, it is generally below a height of 1000 ft. The most important hills of the district are the following:—

PATHANAMTHITTA TALUK

	Name of Hill.	*Height.*
1.	Karimala	2084 ft.
2.	Sabarimala	3790 „
3.	Pamba Mala	3869 „
4.	Karungoli Mala	3003 „
5.	Meen Mala	5690 „
6.	Mahalivadan Mala	3691 „
7.	Kadama Mala	3723 „

* The complete list of villages in the each Taluk is given at Appendix I to this Chapter.

Name of Hill.	*Height.*
8. Koyil Mala	5272 ft.
9. Aladi Mala	4777 „
10. Changu Mala	5105 „
11. Ambarimetu Mala	3566 „
12. Sivagiri Mala	5723 „
13. Pulamala	4927 „
14. Kakkiar mala	4028 „
15. Velakalli mala	3824 „

PATHANAPURAM TALUK

1. Rose Mala	1418 „
2. Atchencoil Mala	1750 „
3. Atchencoil temple site	241 „
4. Nedumpara mala	2921 „
5. Muthira mala	3417 „
6. Koda Mala	1953 „
7. Ayiravally mala	1730 „
8. Padikkattu mala	2788 „

The Achenkoil gap, or as it is also known as the Aryankavu pass, is in the eastern part of Pathanapuram Taluk, and gives an easy access by rail and road to the adjoining District of Thirunelveli. The railway passes through several tunnels, the longest of which is about 6 furlongs in length. This is a smaller version of the Palghat gap, a much wider pass further north in the Western Ghats. As one passes in the train between Punalur and Aryankavu through what is known as the ghat section of the Southern Railway, one sees a splendid scenery of luxuriant forests all the way, for about 25 miles.

Sea Coast

The sea coast of the District is about 30 miles long. Quilon is an important harbour and port in this district. Another minor port is Koilthottam.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

The rivers Kallada and Ithikara are the only two rivers that flow entirely in this District. The rivers Pamba and the Achenkoil Aar have their origin in the hills of Pathanamthitta Taluk, but flow only for a distance of 50 miles and 45 miles respectively in this district, and then flow off into the neighbouring District of Alleppey.

The Pamba River

The Pamba river (110 miles) is the third longest river of the State. It is formed by the confluence of the Pamba Aar

Kakki Aar, Arudai Aar, Kakkad Aar, and Kall Aar. The Pamba Aar in turn is formed by several streams having their origin in the Pulichi Malai, Naga Malai and Sundara Malai in the Peermade Plateau at an altitude of about + 5,500 feet above M.S.L. As the river flows downwards in a north westerly direction with a number of falls, and reaches about + 1,000 level, it receives some more streams from the Karuvattupara malai. It then turns and follows a south-westerly course till it is joined by the Kakki Aar at about + 550′ level.

The Kakki Aar which originates from the Gudarakal Plateau at about 5,000 feet flows in a north-west direction up to level + 1,250 feet and then for some distance in a westerly direction up to level + 700 feet and then flows north and joins the Pamba Aar. The Chinna Kakkiar which also has its origin in the same plateau at about 5,000 feet above M.S.L. flows, in its initial portions, in a north westerly direction, and then in an easterly direction to join the Kakkiar at about + 3,100 feet. The Kakki Aar which forms the major tributary of the Pamba river is a much longer and bigger stream than the main river in the initial portions. The two streams almost flow parallel to each other and are separated by a ridge.

The main Pamba river then flows in a south-westerly direction and meanders through dense forests up to Ponachi and Perunthenaruvi. Here the river spills its water over a 25 feet fall over rocks, and is known by the name of Perunthenaruvi. At Narayanamuzhi, it turns and follows a south eastern direction until the Kakkad Aar joins it. The Kakkad Aar is formed by the confluence of the Muzhiar and Manianar which have their origins in the Kakki Aar malai and Valia Medu respectively. The Pamba Aar, after it is joined by the Kakkad Aar, flows in a southern direction upto Vadasserikara where it is joined by the Kall Aar, which has its origin in the Valonjankkatti Malai.

From Vadaserikkara, the river flows north-west till Ranni, where it turns and takes a south-westerly course. The river is known as the Ranni Aar here. It then follows a westerly course up to Kuriannur and then turns south up to Kozhencherry where it again turns and flows in a westerly direction up to Pandanad.

The river leaves the Quilon district at about three miles to the west of Mallapuzhasseri, and flows into the Alleppey District.

The Achenkoil River

The Achenkoil Aar (80 miles) is formed by the confluence of several small streams originating from the Pasukida Mettu, Ramakkal Teri and Rishi mala at altitudes ranging between 2300 feet and 3800 feet. It flows in a north-westerly course till Kumbazha, and in this portion, it is joined by the Kall Aar about a mile and a half upstream of Torai forest. From Kumbazha, it turns west and flows in that direction for a few miles, then south-wards for 3 miles and afterwards again resumes its original westerly direction of flow till Idappamon, where it turns north west upto Thazhakkara and thereafter flows westwards. At Tharaimukku, the Kuttenperoor Canal branches off from the main river and joins the river Pamba at Parumala. The river then splits up into several smaller branches and the main branch follows a north westerly direction and joins the Pamba river at Veeyapuram. The river is sometimes known by the name Kulakada river also. During its initial reaches, it descends rapidly through the mountainous regions, and after reaching the plains follows a highly meandering course especially between Tharaimukku and Valiaperumbuzha. Several portions of the river are silted up and in certain places encroachments have been made by the local people and cultivation practised.

The river leaves the Quilon District at about three miles to the west of Kaipattur, and flows into the Alleppey district.

The Kallada River

The Kallada river or Punalur river is formed by the confluence of three rivers, viz., the Kulathupuzha, the Chendurni, and Kalthuruthy river near Parappar by the side of the Trivandrum-Shencotta road.

The Kulathupuzha river in turn is formed by the confluence of Pongumalai Aar, which has its origin in Karimalai Kadakkal in Papanasom range at about 5,000′ above M.S.L. the Sinikala Aar which has its origin in Sinikala hills at about 4,500′ above M.S.L. and the Sankalipalam Aar which has its origin in the Ponmudi range at about 3,500′ above M.S.L. The Kulathupuzha river flows in a north westerly direction till Moyala Mod where it turns and continues its flow in a northern direction. It is joined by the Chendurni Aar at Kalangkunnu.

The Chendurni Aar, originating from the Karimalai, Kadakar and Alwakurichi peak flows in a north-westerly direction till it joins the Kulathupuzha Aar. The Kalthuruthi Aar

which is formed by several streams originating from the Perianuruthi Malai (+2,800′), Padikattu Malai (+2,800′) Kottavasal Teri (+2,600′) Pillaivar Kovil Malai (+2,650′) and Suvarnagiri Malai (+1,600′), follows first a south-westerly direction and then a westerly course up to Thenmala, where it turns south and joins the Kulathupuzha river at Parappar.

From Parappar, the river flows north-west under the name Punalur Aar upto Urkunnu and then westwards upto Mukkadavu where it is joined by the Chit Aar, a small stream originating from Kalkunnu. From Mukkadavu upto Pathanapuram, the river flows north-west and at Pathanapuram it again turns west and flows in that direction till Enathu, whereafter it follows a south westerly course till it falls into the Ashtamudi Kayal.

The length of the river is about 75 miles and during its course it pours itself over several cataracts, the notable ones being those at Minn Motai and Ottakal. Up to Punalur the river flows through virgin forests. The famous Punalur Suspension Bridge, the Punalur Railway Bridge, the Parappar Bridge along Trivandrum-Shencotta road, the Enathu Bridge, etc., are some of the important structures existing across the river. The total drainage area of the river, otherwise known as the Kallada basin is about 600 sq. miles, comprising of portions of the Kunnathur, Pathanapuram and Kottarakara Taluks. Some of the important towns in the basin are Punalur, Pathanapuram, and Kottarakara.

The soil in the basin is usually alluvial in nature and consists mostly of fine silt. The soils in the hills are loamy in nature with a great admixture of humus.

The Ithikara River

The Ithikara river is a small river originating from the Madathurikunnu at about 800 feet. It flows in a north westerly direction till Irathur Malai, where it turns west and flows in that direction till Pampira and then it takes more or less a south westerly course till its infall into the Paravur lake near Meenad. Important among its tributaries are the Vattaparambu stream, and the stream which joins it near the bridge along Trivandrum-Quilon road.

The length of the river is about 35 miles, and during its course of flow, it passes through the villages of Vayala, Pampira, Ayur, Thiruvambhagom, Atturkonam, Adichanallur etc. The total drainage area of the river basin is about 270 sq. miles covering portions of the Pathanapuram, Kottarakara and Quilon

Taluks. The important towns in the basin are Kottiyam, Ayur, Chathannur, Chadayamangalam, etc. The Trivandrum-Quilon road crosses this river at Ithikara and the Quilon-Kulathupuzha road at Ayur.

The soil is predominantly gravelly in the garden lands and high reaches, while in the paddy fields of the lower regions it is clayey loam a good percentage of silt.

LAKES

Sasthamcotta Lake

The Sasthamcotta lake, the only major fresh water lake in this State, is in this District. It is situated about 16 miles by road to the north-east of Quilon town, on the right bank of the Kallada river. The lake is surrounded by high hills in three sides, and is protected in the eastern side by an earthern bund about a mile in length. The area of the lake is about 1.44 sq. miles, with a maximum depth of 47 feet. It owes its supply mainly to the infiltration of ground water. No streams or rivulets flow into it.

Ashtamudi Lake

The Ashtamudi lake extends from Quilon northwards. The name Ashtamudi is derived from the fact that the lake branches off into eight creeks, known by different names. One portion near the Quilon Residency is called the Asramam lake and another close to the Cutchery the Kuripuzha, the "Loch Lomond of Kerala." About two miles north of Quilon, the Kallada river draining an area of 600 sq. miles, and with an average annual run-off of 76,000 Mcft. empties itself through an estuary. The extreme length of the lake is ten miles and breadth nine miles, the average width being two miles. It covers an area of 20 sq. miles. There is an outlet to the sea at the western end, which is known as the Neendakara bar. It is of sufficient depth for small vessels and barges. A bridge 1338 feet long spans the backwater near the Neendakara bar.

Paravur Kayal

This lake, in the Quilon District, though small, is very deep and dangerous, on account of its being very close to the sea and exposed to sudden land breeze. It has a bar which opens in the rainy season. The Ithikara river, draining a catchment

area of 270 sq. miles and with an average annual run-off of 42,000 Mcft. empties its waters into this lake. The Paravur *thodu* connects this lake to the south, and Quilon *thodu* to the north as a continuation of the T. S. (Trivandrum-Shoranur) Canal.

The Edava and Nadayara Kayals

These two small lakes lie further south. They lie partly in Chirayinkil taluk, and partly in Quilon taluk. They are connected with the sea by bars, which are opened during rainy season.

GEOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Introduction

The area forms part of the coastal region of South Kerala and has an average elevation of 15.24 metres above the sea level and it is characterised by step like terraces comprising cultivated fields sloping westwards.

GEOLOGY

A tentative geological succession is given below:—

Recent and sub-recent laterite and sandy soils

Tertiary

Quilon limestone, Warkalli formation, consisting of sandstones, grits, white and coloured clays, sometimes carrying thin intercalations of lignite, carbonaceous and resinous material.

Archaean

Garnetiferous gneisses, charnockites and leptynites, fresh in some place, but partially or completely decomposed in other places.

Archaean

The Archaean rocks of the western ghats extend into the area and are exposed as hummocks and inliers amongst the Tertiaries. They form the basement on which the Tertiary sediments have been deposited. The Archaeans comprise gneisses and granites. The gneisses are grey in colour, coarse grained, highly feldspathic, carrying variable proportions of garnet and biotite and occasionally flakes of graphite.

They have been considerably decomposed at their contact with the Tertiaries. The feldspars have been completely kaolinised, while the ferromagnesium minerals have been altered largely to iron-oxide.

The product of such alteration is lithomarge which consists of a mottled or variegated white pink or buff clay. In all probability, the meteoric waters are responsible for such alteration.

The gneisses are intruded by pegmatites and quartz veins.

Quilon Limestone

The Quilon beds consist of mainly blue or grey-bluish highly plastic calcareous clays, carrying remains of corals, molluscs and forminifera. Grey compact fossiliferous limestone is also associated with the formation. General Cullen, who reported the limestone as a dolomite, described the exposures 6.44km. or 8.05 km. NE of Quilon as occurring everywhere below the laterite round Quilon, at a depth of 12.19 metres from the surface (King, 1882).

The limestone, as exposed in the cliff section west of Polikara, Paravur, does not appear to be very thick, and may possibly be only about .3048 metre in thickness.

Warkalli beds

The Warkalli beds consist of clayey sandstones, variegated clays, and carbonaceous clay, containing at places pockets of thin lenses of lignite. Typical exposures of these rocks, can be seen more or less continuously stretching along the sea coast right from Varkala to Anjengo (8° 40′:76° 45′) and beyond towards Paravur (8° 48′:76° 40′) and Quilon (Tangasseri).

According to King, the Warkalli rocks extend for about 35.42 km. with a maximum width of about 8.05 km.

Laterite

Laterite is a product of the warm moist climate and it is extensively developed, in various parts of the State, especially in the sub-mountainous and western portions of the Ghats. Laterite is found, almost extensively forming low flat topped ridges and hills, covering Tertiary sediments and gneisses found between the ghats and the Arabian Sea. In many areas, the lateritic plateau is deeply incised by the west flowing streams, providing picturesque escarpments. Vesicular laterite is also common, in the Travancore area, where it is quarried at several places for building purposes. Quarries of laterite can be seen in the vicinity of Varkala (Trivandrum District) and other areas.

The second variety of laterite, described as the pellety variety is also seen in various parts of the State.

Recent sands

The recent sands comprise alluvium, teris, blown sands etc. The blown sands are the red sands, forming the well known teris and the white sands forming the coast dunes.

The sand of the typical teris is siliceous or ferrugineous (magnetic iron), the former being well rounded and coated with a film of red-oxide of iron which is removed by boiling in nitric acid for a few seconds. Garnet sands are found on the beach.

Groundwater

Good supplies of ground water are available from the Warkalli rocks (mainly sandstones with intercalcated clays) of the state. The depth of water table varies between 70-130 ft. The shallow water table of the Chavara area (near Quilon) affords sufficient water for local consumption as also for small scale agriculture.

Quite appreciable quantities of water are, however, obtainable from eastern and western coastal districts from dug-wells in wet lands, banks of streams and canals.

ECONOMIC DEPOSITS

Limestone

Gen. Cullen was the first to draw attention to the occurrence of limestome at Padappakara, about 8 km. north-east of Quilon, familiar to Indian Geologists as Quilon limestone. About a decade back, there was another discovery of limestone bed at Paravur (Quilon taluk). The bed occurs at a depth of about 12.1 metres below the surface, and it is overlain by the Warkalli formation.

Recent investigations have shown that the Quilon limestone from the beds occurring between Paravur (8° 49′:76°40′) and Anjengo (8° 41′:76° 6′) contains 42 to 46% CaO, with less than 5% MgO.

Lignite

The Warkalli formations consist of a succession of variegated, coarse-grained sandstone with beds of carbonaceous clay containing lignitic material. Exposures of these rocks are

found between Koilthottam and Edavai. The typical section of the Warkalli rocks near Quilon, given by Dr. King, shows the following sequence:-

Laterite	*Thickness*
Sands and	9 to 12 metres.
Sandy clays or lithomarge	17.7 metres.
Alum clays	7.6 metres.
Lignite beds with 'bog oak' type of wood.	2 to 4.6 metres.
Total	36.6 to 42 metres

Peat and pyrite

In the Varkala cliff, the lowermost bed is composed of sandstones and clays which is often carmonaceous with inclusions of woody and resinous substance inter-bedded with peaty lenses, etc., containing thin veins of pyrite. The bed is about 4.6 metres thick and the base is covered with beach sand.

Clay

The China clay occurring below the Warkalli formation constitutes an important source.

At Kundara (near Quilon) main mass of clay occurs beneath a cliff, some 18.3 metres high, composed of Warkalli beds capped by laterite. Near the base of the cliff is a bed of fire clay about 1.5 metres in thickness.

The main deposit appears to be a true china clay which has been derived by the weathering of granitic gneiss.

The Clay deposits in the property of the Vanchi clay mines at Chathannur in Quilon district are estimated to contain a reserve of 1,35,000 c. metres.

The clays found in the Kerala State are both of the residual and sedimentary type, the former formed by the weathering and decomposition of the feldspars in the gneisses and the granites. The largest deposits of residual clays occur at Kundara and vicinity and are being exploited for the manufacture of porcelain ware in the Government ceramic factory and also for export after refining.

The clays at Kundara appear to have been formed by the action of meteoric waters on the highly feldspathic gneiss like leptynite, which is the most common type rock found there. The overburden of the Tertiaries with its carbonaceous beds and pyrite veins appears to have enhanced the leaching properties of the meteoric waters.

Most of the clays associated with the Tertiary sediments can be classified under ball clays and are suited for the manufacture of stone ware and refractory bricks. The clay beds at Chathannur are of sedimentary origin.

There are two beds of limestones of fresh water origin, one a little to the north east of the Asthamudi Kayal and the other near Adichanallur, on the road from Trivandrum to Quilon near Ithikara River Bridge.

Monazite

Monazite (containing Uranium), thorianite (with Uranothorianite) and cerianite (CeO_2) are reported to occur in the beach sands of the district. The beach places deposits of the state were discovered in 1909 and since then mining has been going on, more or less continuously. Commercial production has been from the comparatively higher grade beach sands, and also from the wind blown dune deposits. The beach concentrates occur in the bays, between rocky headlands. One of the large deposits is near Chavara, north of Quilon and here the Monazite is reported to carry 8.5% ThO_2 The average tenor of the sands is only about 1% of the Monazite but 3-5% concentration is found near the mouth of the rivers or lagoonal inlets (Davidson, p. 201)..

Laterite

Laterite is found in circular and elliptical patches at the top of the hills in many places in the area. Laterite is used as a building material.

Graphite

Graphite in desseminated flakes and thin stringers occurs in the laterite at Perunthoil near Punalur. With depth the quantity dwindles. The graphite bearing laterite occurs in a fairly large area.

Mica (Muscovite)

In an abandoned quarry 1.2 km. north of Oachira (9° 12′ 30″:76° 57′ 30″) occurs muscovite mica associated with an altered pegmatite and quartz veins. The mica is very much crumbled, cracked and is of no economic significance.

Phlogopite mica

Phlogopite mica occurs near Kakaponnayam 8 km. NE. of Punalur (9° 01′:76° 55′ 30″). Here the mica is associated

with dunites. A mine is situated there and the deposit is worked on a small scale. The mica is of deep amber colur with some inclusions.

Marcasite (FeS)

Marcasite pseudomorphs after woody remains occur in the lower beds of the Warkallis, in Quilon district.

Fossils

The marine fossils recognised in the Warkalli limestone bed are *Strombus fortisi, Cassis sculpta, Voluta jugosa, Rannela bufo, Conus calanulatus, Consmarginatus, Cerithium rude, Cryprea* and an abundant species of the foraminifer *Orbitolites.* The evidence thus obtained is in favour of assigning the formation an upper Tertiary age.

FLORA

INTRODUCTION

The flora of Quilon district is mainly tropical in nature. Like most other districts of the State, this district can also be divided on a physiographic basis into 1. Coastal, 2. Midland and 3. Mountainous regions.

Coastal region

The soil in the coastal tracts consists mainly of pure crystalline sands, and is usually deficient in potash.

On the rocky coast of the sea are seen sea weeds like *Ulva, Caulerpa, Chaetomorpha, Sargassum, Dictzyota, Padina, Gracilaria* etc. Bordering the sea-coast are seen coconut plantations. Other plants of this region include *Calotropis gigantea Ipomoea biloba, I. repens, Dregia volubilis, Crotalaria striata, Cleome viscosa, Leucas aspera, Portulaca tuberosa, Rathia trifoliata* etc. and also a few grasses. In stagnant pools are floating water plants like *Pistia stratiotes, Eichhornia crassipes,* submersed plants like *Ottelia alismoides, Hydrilla verticillata, Blyxa* sp. and water plants with floating leaves like *Nympaea, Nelumbium speciosum, Alisma* sp., *Limnanthemum* sp. etc. Halophytes are also not uncommon here.

Midland region

Most of this region is under cultivation of Coconut, Arecanut, Paddy, Tapioca etc. Besides these are also seen tropical

fruit-trees like *Artocarpus integra, Mangifera indica, Artocarpus nobilis* and *Anacardium occidentale.*

Plants like *Thespesia populnea, Dolonix regia, Hibiscus tiliaceous, Jatropha curcas, Plumeria acutifolia, Moringa oleifera* etc. are seen growing as hedge plants.

Some of the common weeds of this locality are *Leucas aspera, Cleome viscosa, Hyptis suaveolens, Amaranthus spinosus, A. viridis, Ageratum conyzoides, Oldenlandia* sp. etc.

Mountainous region.

The soils in the hills are loamy in nature with great admixture of humus and are generally deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus. Giant grasses like *Bambusa* and *Ochlandra* occupy a good portion of the scrub jungles.

Piper nigrum, Piper betel, Elettaria cardamomum, Hevea brazeliensis, Cammelia sinensis etc. are cultivated at different levels in this region.

At higher altitudes the temperature is low due to the greater amount of precipitation. Scrub jungles gradually merge into deciduous forest. The tree form found in this area includes *Terminalia* sp., *Bombax malabaricum, Dillenia, Careya arborea* etc.

In the tropical evergreen forests, the climax vegetation of the area, are found giant tree forms like species of *Terminalia, Eugenia* sp., *Ficus* sp., *Artocarpus* sp., *Dalbergia, Tectona* etc. Forest undergrowth includes forms like *Pellionia heyneana,* species of *Ixora, Ophiorrhiza mungo, Knoxia* sp., *Selaginella* and a number of other ferns. Epiphytes like *Vanda, Saccolobium* etc. are also common.

In this account of the flora the plants are arranged according to the classification of J. Hutchinson.

DIVISION I

Lignosae

Mangoliaceae is represented by only one species namely *Michelia champaca* Linn. (Champakom). Mainly grown in gardens for the sake of its fragrant flowers. This tree is highly venerated by the Hindus. The bark is described as stimulant, expectorant and astringent. The seeds and fruit are said to be useful for healing cracks in the feet and root is described as purgative.

Annonales. Annonaceae

Uvaria narum Wall. Narumpanal. A scandent shrub with red terminal flowers. The root is fragrant and aromatic and the bruised leaves smell like cinnamon.

Annona. Annona in Latin the 'year's harvest' suggested by the Haitian name Annon. There are three species namely *A. squamosa* Linn., *A. reticulata* Linn. and *A. muricata* Linn. cultivated for their edible fruits.

Polyalthia longifolia Hook. f. & Thoms, *P. korinti* Hook. f. & Thoms., *P. cerasoides* Hook. f. & Thoms. etc. are timber yielding trees.

Artabotrys odoratissimus R. Br. and *Cananga odorata* are grown for their fragrant flowers.

Laurales. Lauraccae.

Cinnamomum zeylanicum Blume. Vazhana.

A moderate sized tree, the bark of which is the cinnamon bark of commerce.

Mahilus macrantha Nees. Uravu.

A large evergreen tree with flowers in subterminal panicles. The bark powdered and given internally with honey and ghee cures rheumatism, asthma and consumption.

Plants like *Litsea coriacea* Hook. f. (Maravetti thali), *L. glabrata* Hook. f. (Ongakanni), *L. laeta* Wall. (Shempoo) are also found growing at higher elevations.

Cassytha filiformis Linn. Moodillathali

A filiform twining parasite. Common on various species of young trees and bushes. The plant is said to improve the vitality and remove the effect of old age.

Rosales. Rosaceae.

Rosa A genus of about 125 species. Many species are cultivated in the gardens.

Leguminales.

Caesalpiniaceae. *Delonix elata* Gamble n. Comb.

A pretty medium sized tree grown as a hedge plant. The petals are yellowish white turning orange.

Delonix regia Raf.

A fairly large deciduous tree. The flowers are large with spreading "racket shaped" red petals. There is a considerable variation in the intensity of the red of the flowers in different individuals.

Tamarindus indica Linn.

A large evergreen tree of great importance. The wood is very hard and used for many purposes. The pulp of the ripe fruit is used in a variety of ways.

Other members of this family include *Cassia fistula* Linn. (Konna), *C. siamea* Lamk. (Manjakonna), *C. alata* Linn. (Puzhukadikonna), *Saraca indica* Linn. (Asokam), *Bauhinia purpurea* Linn. (Chuvanna-mandaram), *B. tomentosa* Linn. (Kanchanapu) *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* Swartz. *Cassia prandis* Linn. f, *Bauhinia acuminata* Linn., some of which are grown in gardens.

Weeds like *Cassia occidentalis* Linn. (Ponnaveeram), *C. tora* Linn. (Thakara), *C. kleinii* D & A. and *C. mimosoides* Linn. are common in waste places.

Enterolobium saman Prain. Urakkamthoongi.

A large deciduous tree with a spreading crown of foliage. The sweet pulp contained in the pod is eaten by the cattle. The pod when fed to cows is believed to increase the quantity of the milk.

The popular name "Rain tree" may have been derived from the fact that the leaves fold on the approach of rain and thus act as an indicator.

Pithecolobium dulce Benth.

Often cultivated as a hedge plant .

Acacia farnesiana Willd.

A thorny shrub with bright yellow very fragrant flowers. The bark is astringent and often used as a substitute for *Acacia arabica* bark.

Acacia caesia Willd.

A thorny climbing shrub. Common in the scrub jungles.

Adenanthera pavonia Linn.

A handsome deciduous tree. The bright red biconvex seeds are used for jewellers weights.

Entada scandens Benth.

A huge woody climber with very large pods. The round flat shining seeds are eaten.

Neptunia oleracea Lour.

A floating water plant.

Mimosa pudica Linn.

A fast growing thorny troublesome weed with very sensitive leaves.

Papilionaceae

Pongamia glabra Vent.

A moderate sized evergreen tree. Wood used for cart wheel and other purposes.

Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.

A large deciduous tree. Wood very hard and used for building, furniture, agricultural and railway purposes.

Dalbergia paniculata Roxb.

A conspicuous tree from its smooth grey bark. The wood is soft.

Dalbergia latifolia Roxb.

A large deciduous tree. The timber which is known in the trade as Indian Rose Wood or Bombay Black wood is prized as a veneer for panelling, ordinance work etc.

Flemingia strobilifera R. Br. and *F. semialata* Roxb.

With gland dotted leaves and inflated pods. These are erect branching shrubs, found at higher elevations.

Butea frondosa Koen.

A small deciduous tree. The flowers are scarlet and orange and are borne in great profusion on the leafless branches. The tree is one of the principal hosts for the lac-insect.

Erythrina variegata Linn. (*E. indica* Lamk.)

The coral tree. A moderate sized tree of rapid growth with the young shoots covered with stellate pubescence and with black prickles on the branches. It grows easily from cuttings and is often used as a hedge plant.

Abrus precatorius Linn.

A wiry climber with pink flowers and scarlet seeds with a black end. The seeds are used as a purgative but in large

doses are an acrid poison giving rise to symptoms resembling those of Cholera. Taken internally by women, the seeds disturb the uterine functions and prevent conception.

Aeschynomene aspera Linn.

A tall soft perennial shrub. The stems are very soft and light. They are used for making sun hats, fishing floats toys and for many other purposes. Found in water logged areas.

Sesbania grandiflora Rers. Agathikkera.

A small quick growing tree with large white or reddish flowers. The leaves and fruits are used as a vegetable. The juice of the flowers is squeezed into the eyes to relieve dimness of vision.

Dolichos biflorus L. (Muthira), *Canavalia ensiformis,* DC. (Valaringa), *Phaseolus multiflorus* Willd. (Pathinettumaniyan), *P. radiatus* Linn. and *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* DC. (Chathurapayaru) are cultivated for their pods.

Different species of *Crotalaria, Gliricidia maculata* etc. are grown in different places for green manure.

The common weeds of this family include *Zornia diphylla, Tephrosea* sp., *Crotalaria* sp., *Alysicarpus vaginalis, Desmodium triflorum, Rothea trifoliata* etc.

Styracales.

Symplocaceae.

Symplocos rosea Bedd.

A small tree. The flowers are pink and the fruits are red in colour.

Symplooos spicata Roxb.

A small tree with white flowers.

Araliales

Araliaceae

Plants like *Aralia balfouri, A. filicifolia* and *Panax fruticosum* are often grown in gardens.

Casuarinales.

Casuarinaceae.

Casuarina equisetifolia Forst.

A large ever green tree with characteristic feathery foliage giving the impression of a coniferous tree. It is one of the

rapid growers and the wood is highly esteemed for fuel.
Urticales.

Trema orientalis Bl.

A small very rapidly growing, but short lived tree. The wood of this species is soft but is valued for its excellence as a source of gun powder charcoal.

Moraceae

Ficus benghalensis Linn.

A wide-spreading tree of low stature. It is well known from the descending aerial roots which, having gained contact with the soil, grow into the trunks which support the wide-spreading canopy of foliage.

F. religiosa Linn.

This tree is sacred to Hindus and is often found growing near temples. Starts life epiphytically and reaches a considerable size after strangling the host.

F. asperrima Roxb. Theragam.

A medium sized tree without aerial roots. The rough leaves are used as sand paper in sandal wood carving.

Artocarpus integrifolia Linn. Pilavu.

A large evergreen tree.

A. hirsuta Lamk. Aini

A large evergreen tree.

A. incisa Linn.

A quick growing handsome tree, native of the pacific islands. The fruit is roundish or ovoid and the pulp is fleshy solid and white. The best variety seldom has any seed.

Streblus asper Lour.

A small tree with small wedge shaped leaves. The rough leaves are used to polish ivory and wood.

Morus alba Linn.

Cultivated for its fruit.

Urticaceae

Fleurya interrupta Gaud.

A stinging herb with ovate coarsely toothed leaves.

Girardinia leschenaultiana Dcne.

A strong stinging nettle with lobed leaves. Found in moist areas.

Laportea terminalis Wight.

A mild stinging herb.

Pilea microphylla Liebm.

A fleshy small leaved herb found growing on walls.

Pellionia heyneana Wedd.

A herb with oblique leaves, found as an undergrowth in the forest areas..

Pouzolzia indica Gaud.

A very variable herb found as a weed in waste places. Different species of *Pouzolzia* like *P. wightii, P. auriculata* are found growing at higher elevations.

Bixales.

Bixaceae.

Bixa orellana Linn.

A much branched shrub with handsome flowers. The capsule is reddish brown and is covered with soft prickles. A water soluble yellow dye is obtained from the seed coat.

Flacourtiaceae.

Hydnocarpus wightiana Blume. Maroti.

A large evergreen tree. Seeds yield an oil used for rheumatism and as a substitute for chaulmugra oil for leprosy.

Scolopia ocenata Clos.

A medium sized tree with green globose fruits.

Flacourtia sepiaria Roxb.

A thorny shrub in scrub jungles.

F. inermis wall Lovi-Lovi.

An ornamental thornless tree with red cherry like berries.

Thymelaeales.

Nyctaginaceae is the only family of this order and is represented by *Pisonia morindaefolia* Br.

Frequently found in gardens and easily noticeable by its large pale green leaves. Leaves sometimes used as a vegetable.

Boerhaavia diffusa Linn.

A diffuse herb with a stout root stock. Medicinally very important.

Mirabilis jalapa, *Bougainvillaea spectabilis*, *B. glabra* etc., are grown in gardens.

Proteales.

Proteaceae.

Grevillea robusta A. Cunn.

A medium sized tree. The leaves are bipinnate fern-like and silvery white on the lower side. Grown as a shade for tea.

Capparidales.

Capparidaceae.

Crataeva religiosa Forst. Nirmathalom.

A small tree with terminal corymbs of white flowers. Leaves used as a remedy for swelling and burning sensation in the soles of the feet and are cooked and eaten as a vegetable to reduce corpulence.

Gynandropsis pentaphylla, *Cleome viscosa*, *C. monophylla* and *C. aspera* are found as weeds in waste places.

Capparis zeylanica, *C. sepiaria* etc. are found scattered in the scrub jungles.

Morengaceae.

Moringa oleifera Lamk.

A graceful tree with decompound leaves. The tender fruits and leaves are used as vegetables.

Polygalales.

Polygalaceae.

Zanthophyllum flavescens Roxb.

A large timber tree with stout oblong lanceolate leaves and terminal panicles of yellow flowers.

Plants like *polygala javana* and *P. chinensis* are found growing in restricted areas.

Passiflorales.

Passifloraceae.

Passiflora edulis Sims.

A tendril climber with 3-lobed toothed leaves. The ripe fruits are edible.

P. foetida Linn.

A hispid tendril climber common on the road sides.

Cucurbitales.

Cucurbitaceae.

Many members of this family are cultivated for their edible fruits which are used as vegetables. They are *Trichosanthes anguina* (Padavalam), *Momordica charantia* (Paval), *Luffa aegyptiaca, L. acutangula* (Peechan)), *Cucumis sativus* (Vellari), *Coccinia indica* (Koval) and *Cucurbita pepo* (Mathen)

Plants like *Melothria maderaspatana* and *M. heterophylla* are also seen here and there.

Begoniaceae.

Begonia. Many species are grown in gardens for their elegant colored leaves.

Caricaceae.

Carica papaya L.

A tree grown for the edible fruits.

Cactaceae.

Opuntia dillenii Hew. and *Cereus* sp.

These are used as hedge plants. Species of *Epiphyllum* are grown in gardens.

Tiliales.

Tiliaceae.

Grewia microcos L.

An erect shrub. Fruits unlobed and often eaten by children. *Triumfetta rhomboidea, Corchorus acutangulus, C. capsularis, C. olitorius* etc. are found growing as weeds.

Sterculiaceae.

Sterculia foetida Linn. Pinari.

A large deciduous tree. The flowers have a very offensive smell.

S. balanghas Linn. Thondi.

A moderate sized tree common on the hedges.

Gauzuma tomentosa Kunth.

A small tree with oblique cordate leaves. Ripe fruits are eaten.

Waltheria indica and *Melochia corchorifolia* are weeds found on the road sides.

Bombacaceae.

Bombax malabaricum DC.

A very conspicuous tree. The cotton surrounding the seeds is used for stuffing pillows.

Ceiba pentandra Gaertn.

The white cotton tree. The cotton is used for stuffing cushions and pollows and is of better quality than that of

Bombax.
Malvaceae.

Thespesia populnea Cav.

A favourite avenue tree. Propagated by stem cuttings. Commonly grown as a hedge plant. Wood durable and used in making furniture.

Sida rhombifolia, S. cordifolia, S. acuta, S. veronicaefolia, Hibiscus furcatus, H. vitifolius, H. surattensis, Abutilon indicum and *Urena lobata* are found as weeds on the road sides.

Hibiscus esculentus L.

Commonly cultivated for its fruits.

H. sabdariffa L.

The fleshy persistent clayx is eaten.

H. tiliaceus Linn.

A fast growing common hedge plant.

Hibiscus rosasinensis and its various varieties are cultivated in gardens.

Euphorbiales.
Euphorbiaceae.

Hevea braziliensis Muell. Arg.

It is cultivated in a few places at higher elevations. The bark of the tree is smooth and the leaves turn a bright red as they wither. As is well known the tree supplies the latex which can be converted into very high grade rubber.

Bridelia retusa Spreng.

A moderate sized tree with conical spines on the stem when young. The bark can be used for tanning and the leaves given to cattle.

Mallotus philippinensis Meull.

A small tree. The fruits are bright red in colour. A bright orange dye is obtained from the red powder derived from the capsules.

Macaranga indica Wt.

A quick growing tree with large orbicular ovate peltate leaves. Leaves used as a green manure.

Ricinus communis Linn.

Cultivated and often growing wild.

Jatropha curcas Linn.

A shrub common on the hedges.

Jatropha gossypifolia Linn.

A small dark coloured shrub common in waste places.

Pedilanthus tithymaloides Poit.

A dark green fleshy shrub planted as a hedge plant.

Manihot utilissima Pohl.

Extensively cultivated throughout the district for the edible tubers. The common weeds of this family are *Croton sparciflorus, Micrococca mercurialis, Acalypha indica, A. ciliata, Euphorbia hirta, E. rosea, Tragia involucrata, Sebastiania chamaelca, Phyllanthus niruri* etc.

Euphorbia tirucalli Linn.

A large shrub. Branches are cylindric and green. Cultivated as a hedge plant.

Euphorbia antiquorum Linn.

3-4 winged cladode with spines. It forms a reliable hedge.

Breynia rhamnoides Muell.

A large shrub used as a hedge plant. Different species of *Acalypha* and *Phyllanthus, Euphorbia pulcherrima, E. heterophylla* etc. are cultivated in gardens.

Theales.

Theaceae.

Camellia sinensis O. Ktze.

An evergreen shrub or a small tree. Cultivated on a large scale on the hilly slopes of the district.

Ochnales.

Ochnaceae.

Ochna squarrosa Linn.

A small tree with thin brown bark. The flowers are yellow with persistent coloured sepals.

Dipterocarpaceae.

Vateria indica Linn.

A large evergreen tree found growing on the sides of roads. The flowers are white, fragrant and in large drooping panicles. The fruits are hard and ovoid.

Hopea parviflora Bedd. and *Shorea robusta* Gaertn are some of the important timber trees of this family.

Guttiferales.

Clusiaceae (*Guttiferae*).

Calophyllum inophyllum Linn.

Grown not only for the handsome foliage but also for its valuable fruit. It yields an oil which is used in medicine and for various other purposes.

C. decipiens Wight.

A moderate sized tree with reddish brown useful wood.

Garcinia cambogia Desr.

A small evergreen tree with shining green leaves. Fruits are edible.

Myrtales.

Myrtaceae.

Syzygium caryophyllaeum Gaertn.

A small tree with white flowers. The pulpy black globose fruits are edible.

S. zeylanicum DC.

A handsome little tree with white flowers and edible white fruits.

S. jambolanum DC.

A large evergreen tree with white flowers and purple fruits. Plants like *Psidium guyava* Linn. and *Jambosa vulgaris* are grown as fruit trees.

Lecythidaceae.

Barringtonia racemosa Roxb.

A small tree frequently found in marshy areas and the sea shore where the soil water is not too brackish. This is conspicuous for its long pendant racemes of large cream coloured flowers with pink stamens.

Careya arborea Roxb.

A deciduous tree with yellowish white flowers. This tree is fire resistant.

Punicaceae.

Punica granatum L.

The only species of this family in India and is believed to have been introduced from Persia. It has been cultivated from very early times as a fruit tree.

Combretaceae.

Terminalia Catappa Linn.

A large handsome tree. The nut kernels are eaten.

T. paniculata Rotte.

A large deciduous tree. Wood very hard and used for building purposes.

Caly.opteris floribunda Lamk.

A straggling shrub, common in open forest regions.

Quisqualis indica Linn.

Commonly cultivated in gardens.

Melastomaceae.

Malastoma malabathricum Linn.

A beautiful shurb with large red-purple flowers common in wet places.

Memecylon umbellatum Burn.

A shrub with yellowish leaves and blue flowers.

M. edule Roxb.

A large shrub with blue flowers and dark-purple edible fruits. Different species of *Osbeckia* like *O. octandra, O. zeylanica, O. travancorica* etc. are allso seen.

Celastrales.

Salvadoraceae.

Azima tetracantha Lamk.

A thorny straggling shrub. The leaves and roots are highly medicinal, especially for chest pains etc.

Santalales.

Loranthaceae.

Loranthus longiflorus Desr.

A parasite common on various hosts. The flowers are scarlet orange or pink in colour.

L. elasticus Desr.

A dichotomously branched parasitic shrub with striped flowers and the fruits are pink in colour.

Santalaceae.

Santalum album Linn.

A small semiparasitic evergreen tree with brownish-purple flowers.

Rhamnales.

Rhamnaceae.

Zizyphus jujuba Lamk.

A spreading thorny large shrub with sub-orbicular leaves. The fruit is edible.

Z. oenoplia Mill.

A spiny straggling shrub. In some places it is used in fencing. The small black fruits are edible.

Vitaceae.

Cissus quadrangularis Linn.

A fast growing succulent climbing shrub with jointed quardrangular stems. The juice of the stem which common salt after warming is used to relieve pain in the ear.

Cissus vitiginea, Cayratia pedata and *Cissus pallida* are common in waste places.

Leea sambucina Willd.

A large shrub with compound leaves common at higher elevations. The stipular outgrowths are very prominent.

Myrsinales.

Myrsinaceae.

Embelia basaal A.DC.

A large climbing shrub with racemes of orange coloured flowers from the older branches.

Ardisia littoralis Andr.

A shrub with rose coloured flowers found along the back waters.

Aegicertaceae.

Aegiceras corniculatum Blanco.

A large shrub found along the tidal creeks. The fruit is long and curved and resembling green chillis. Viviparous germination is also found in this plant.

Ebenales.

Sapotaceae.

Bassia latifolia Roxb.

A large handsome deciduous tree. The fleshy corollas contain much sugar and are used for the distillation of spirit. The large fleshy cotyledons yield a valuable oil.

B. malabaricum DC.

A large tree found along the banks of streams.

Mimusops elengi Linn.

A small tree. The fruits are edible.

Mimusops kauki Linn.

An introduced plant grown in gardens. The under surface of leaves shows a silvered appearance.

Achras sapota Linn.

Cultivated in gardens for its edible fruits.

Rutales.

Rutaceae.

Feronia elephantum Corr.

A small deciduous spiny tree with imparipinnate leaves and globose many seeded fruits with a hard rind. The pulp of the fruit is often eaten.

Aegle marmelos Corr.

A small spiny tree often found in temple premises. The fruits are large and with a very hard rind. The pulp is having a characteristic smell and medicinally very important.

Different species of *Citrus* are cultivated for the edible fruits.

Murraya exotica Linn.

A large shrub with scented white flowers.

M. koenigii Spreng.

A shrub. The leaves are highly aromatic and are used for flavouring curries. Medicinally also very important.

Glycosmis cochinchinensis.

An aromatic weed growing luxuriantly in waste places.

Simarubaceae.

Samadera indica Gaertn.

Found growing chiefly as a hedge plant. A medicinal plant of great importance.

Ailanthes malabarica DC.

A lofty tree. The fruits are one seeded samaras. The wood is soft and white and used in match industry.

Quassia amara L.

An introduced plant with dark red flowers in racemes and compound leaves with winged petioles.

Averrhoaceae.

Averrhoa bilimbi L. and *A. carambola* L.

These are grown for the edible fruits which are used in making curries and also for removing stains from the garments.

Meliales.

Meliaceae.

Aglaia roxburghiana Hiern.

A spreading tree found always associated with temple "Kavu". The pulpy aril is eaten by children.

Swietenia mahogoni and *S. macrophylla* are grown for their valuable timber.

Melia azedarach.

Azadirachta indica is grown in gardens. These plants are highly medicinal.

Plants like *Cipadessa baccifera, Cedrela toona, Chukrasia tabularis* are found at higher elevations.

Sapindales.

Sapindaceae.

Sapindus laurifolius Vahl.

A shady tree with 3 lobed fruits which are used by local goldsmiths for cleaning gold articles.

Dodonaea viscosa Linn.

A stiff shrub found in dry open areas.

Cardiospermum halicacabum Linn.

A climbing herb with dissected leaves and inflated 3 lobed capsules.

Anacardiaceae.

Anacardium occidentale Linn.

A spreading tree found almost everywhere. The roasted kernels are largely exported. It is one of the important cash crops of this area.

Mangifera indica Linn.

A tree of economic value. The timber and the fruits are in great demand.

Spondias mangifera Willd.

A plant often grown on the hedges. Propagated chiefly by stem cuttings. The half mature fruits are often eaten.

Plants like *Odina wodier, Gluta travancorica, Semecarpus anacardium, Holigarna arnottiana, Buchanania lanzan and B. lancelolata* are also found in this area.

Loganiales.

Strychnaceae.

Strychnos nux-vomica Linn.

A large deciduous tree often found in temple kavu. The flat circular seeds contain strychinine. Other species of *Strychnos* like *S. colubrina* and *S. aenea* are also seen.

Oleaceae.

Nyctanthes arbor-tristis Linn.

A bushy garden plant with rough leaves and light yellow flowers. The flowers open in the evening emitting a characteristic smell and fall off as soon as the sun rises.

Jasminum sambac Ait. (Mulla) and *J. grandiflorum* Linn. (Pichi) are cultivated for their fragrant flowers.

Apocynales.

Apocynaceae.

Alstonia scholaris. R. Br. Ezilampala.

A large ever green tree. The flowers are greenish white and emits a very strong odour. The wood is soft, white even-grained and is not durable but has been found suitable for match splints.

Cerbera manghas Linn. Odallam.

A small tree with bright green fleshy leaves and large white flowers. Common in swamps and near back waters. The large green ellipsoid drupes resemble mangoes. Different species of *Plumeria* like *P. acutifolia, P. alba* (Ezha chembagam), *Kopsia fruticosa, Nerium odorum* (Aruli), *Thevetia neriifolia* (Sivan aruli), *Allamanada cathartica* (Kolambippu), *Vallaris solanacea* and *Tabernaemontana coronaria* (Nanthiarvattam) are often cultivate in gardens.

Vinca rosea (Smasanappu and *Ichnocarpus frutescens* (Palvalli) are found growing in waste places.

Periplocaceae.

Hemidesmus indicus R. Br.

A twining wiry shrub found in waste places and on hedges.

Asclepiadaceae.

Calotropis gigantea R. Br.

A large milky shrub common in waste places and on road sides.

Daemia extensa R. Br.

A slender nasty smelling milky climber often found on hedges.

Marsdenia volubiles T. Cooke.

A large climing shrub with green flowers and large woody follicles.

Ceropegia candelabrum Linn.

A slender climber.

Rubiales.

Rubiaceae.

Morinda citrifolia Linn. Manjanatti.

A small tree with large leaves and white flowers in umbellate heads.

M. umbellata Linn.

A climbing shrub with memberaneous leaves and flowers in many branched terminal umbels.

Mussaenda frondosa Linn.

A straggling shrub, with dense inflorescence and red flowers.

Ophiorrhiza mungos Linn.

A herbaceous under shrub with white flowers found in evergreen forest areas.

Plants like *Oldenlandia auricularia, O. purpurascens, O. pruinosa, O. corymbosa, O. herbacea, O. Umbellata, O. biflora, Knoxia corymbosa, Borreria hispida* and *B. stricta* are found growing in waste places throughout the area.

Pavetta indica, Plectronia didyma and *P. rheedii* are found here and there.

The chief garden plants of the family include different species of *Ixora, Pentas lanceolata, Hameliapatens*, etc.

Bignoniales.

Bignoniaceae.

Oroxylum indicum Vent.Palaga-paiyani.

A small tree with 2-3 pinnate large leaves and flat fruits. Seeds are surrounded by a broad transparent papery wing.

Millingtonia hortensis Linn. f. Maramalli.

A tall handsome tree with long white sweet scented flowers.

Spathodea campanulata Beauv.

An introduced tree. The flowers are red and in pendulous recemes. Flower bud encloses a good quantity of water.

Stenolobium stans. D Don.

A garden plant conspicuous for its bright golden yellow flowers.

Pedaliaceae.

Pedalium murex Linn.

A branching mucilaginous herb common in sandy open places. The fruits have sharp conical spines.

Sesamum indicum Linn. Ellu.

Grown as an alternate crop in paddy fields. Also found growing in waste places near dwellings.

Martyniaceae.

Martynia annua Linn.

A hairy under shrub with elegant rose coloured blotched flowers. The fruits are provided with two anterior sharp hooks. Common on the road sides.

Verbenaceae.

Tectona grandis Linn. f.

A world-famous timber tree with quadrangular stem.

Vitex altissima Linn. f.

A large lofty tree with flowers tinged with blue or violet, found in the forest areas.

V. pubescens Vahl.

A large tree common in the forest region.

Vitex negundo Linn. and *V. trifolia* are large shrubs with palmately compound leaves common on the plains.

Clerodendron infortunatum and *Lantana aculeata* are found as weeds throughout the district.

Lippia nodiflora, Stachytarpheta indica and *Clerodendron inerme* are found near the coastal areas.

Plants like *Duranta plumieri, Petrea volubilis, Clerodendron fragrans, C. paniculatus, C. macrosiphon,* different species of *Verbena* etc. are found growing as garden plants.

Herbaceae

Ranale.

Nymphaeaceae.

Nelumbilum speciosum Willd. Thamara.

A large erect aquatic herb with a creeping root stock. The flowers are large and may be rose, white or yellow in colour. Found in some tanks and also in certain gardens.

Nymphaea.

There are two species of this genus namely *N. atellata* Willd. and *N. pubescens*. These are essentially aquatic and found througout the district.

Berberidales.

Menispermaceae.

Tinospora cordifolia Miers.

A climbing shrub with succulent stems and long slender aerial roots. An important medicinal plant.

Tiliacora acuminata Miers.

A large evergreen climbing shrub with long lanceolate leaves and yellow flowers in racemes. Found on hedges.

Other climbing plants of this family are *Cissampelos pariera* and *Cyclea peltata.*

Aristolochiales.

Aristolochiaceae.

Apama siliquosa Lamk.

An erect shrub found in the evergreen forest areas. The leaves are 3-5 ribbed at the base. The capsules are long and 4-gonous.

Aristolochia indica Linn.

A perennial herb found throughout the district.

A. ornithocephala.

An elegant climber with large cordate leaves and large beautiful flowers.

Piperales.

Piperaceae.

Piper longum Linn.

A root climber with glabrous leaves and small red berries.

Species of *Piper* like *Piper nigrum* Linn. (Kurumulaku) and *P. betle* are cultivated on a large scale for the commercial important products like pepper and betel leaves.

Other plants like *Peperomia pellucida, P. reflexa* and *Heckeria subpeltata* are also seen in this locality.

Rhoeadales.

Papaveraceae.

Argemone mexicana Linn.

An introduced prickly annual with yellow flowers. Found on the road sides and in fallow fields.

Caryophyllales.

Elatinaceae.

Bergia ammannioides Roxb.

An erect herb in marshy places.

Molluginaceae.

Gisekia pharnaceoides Linn.

A diffuse branched herb with fleshy leaves common in sandy places.

Different species of *Mollugo* like *M. oppositifolia, M. pentaphylla, M. cerviana* and *M. disticha* are found throughout the district.

Caryophyllaceae.

Polycarpaea corymbosa Lamk.

A beautiful small herb, common in the coastal regions. Species of *Dianthus* are grown in gardens as an ornamental plant.

Ficoidaceae.

Portulaca oleracea Linn.

A prostrate fleshy herb with cuneate, dark green shining leaves. Used as a vegetable. Other species of *Portulaca* like *P. quadrufida* and *P. tuberosa* are also seen in the coastal areas.

Portulaca grandiflora.

An ornamental plant with beautiful pink, rose-like flowers.

Talinum cuneifolium Willd.

... small bushy herbaceous annual with obovate cuneiform leaves and purple flowers. Leaves used as a vegetable.

Polygonales.

Polygonaceae.

Polygonum glabrum Willd.

An erect glabrous herbaceous annual with pink flowers, found growing near water logged areas.

P. chinense Linn.

A rambling undershrub with white flowers, common at higher elevations.

Antigonon leptopus Hook and Arn.

A large handsome climber commonly found in gardens.

Muchlenbeckia platyclados Meissn.

A garden plant. The leaves are reduced and scale like. The branches are flat, articulated and green.

Amaranthaceae.

This family includes only a few genera like *Amaranthus, Achyranthes, Aerva, Alternanthera, Cyathula, Celosia* etc.

Species of *Amaranthus* like *A. spinosus, A. gangeticus* and *A. viridis* are used as vegetables.

Gomphrena globosa, Celossia cristata and *Tetranthera ficoidea* are grown in gardens.

Plants like *Cyathula prostrata, Allmania nodiflora, Achyranthes aspera* and *Aerva lanata* are found growing as weeds throughout the district.

Alternanthera triandra Lamk.

A prostrate herb in wet places.

Lythrales.

Lythraceae.

Lawsonia inermis Linn.

A glabrous shrub. The leaves give a kind of dye called the "Henna dye". A paste of leaves is applied to the feet for curing rheumatism.

Lagerstroemia flos-reginae Retz.

A very handsome tree when in flower. The wood is hard and valuable.

Lagerstroemia indica Linn.

A large ornamental shrub. Plants like *Rotala rotundifolia*, *R. indica*, *Ammania baccifera* and *A. multiflora* are found in paddy fields.

Onagraceae.

This family is represented in this area by two genera, *Jussieua* and *Ludwigia*, each with two species namely *J. repens*, *J. suffruticosa*, *L. prostrata* and *L. parviflora*. All are water plants, commonly found in paddy fields and on the banks of pools.

Primulales.

Plumbaginaceae.

Plumbago zeylanica Linn.

A perennial herb with white flowers.

P. capensis.

Usually grown as a garden plant.

Umbelliferae.

Pimpinella heyneana Wall.

An erect annual herb found in the hilly areas of Arienkavu.

Centella asiatica Urban.

A prostrate herb rooting at the nodes. Common in wet places.

Hydrocotyle javanica Thunb.

A prostrate herb common at higher elevations.

Foeniculum vulgare and *Coriandrum sativuum* are sometimes cultivated.

Companales.

Campanulaceae.

Sphenoclea zeylanica Gaertn.

A stout marsh herb. Flowers are small and arranged in close spikes.

Lobeliaeceae.

Lobelia trigona Roxb.

A glabrous annual in wet places. The flowers are pale blue or violet coloured.

L. nicotianaefolia Heyne.

A large herb. The large white flowers are in long cylindric racemes.

Asterales.

Compositae.

This family is well represented throughout the district. Plants like *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Vernonia cinerea*, *Elephantopus scaber*, *Blumea lacera*, *Blainvillea rhomboidea*, *Synedrella nodiflora*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Emilia scabra*, *Launaea pinnatifida* and *Eupatorium* spp. are some of the weeds of this family.

Sphaeranthus indicus, *Epaltes divaricata* and *Eclipta alba* are found in wet places. A wide variety of garden plants like *Cosmos*, *Dahlia*, *Zinnia*, *Solidago* and *Artemisia* are grown in gardens.

Solanales.

Solanaceae.

The family consists of herbs, climbers and shrubs. Plants like *Datura fastuosa* are extremely poisonous. *Physalis minima*, *Solanum nigrum*, *S. vagum*, *S. indicum* etc. are some of the weeds of this family. *Lycopersium esculentum*, different species of *Capsicum* and *Solanum melongena* are often cultivated for their edible fruits

Species of *Petunia* are found as ornamentals.

Convolvulaceae.

A large number of species of this family are twiners or climbing shrubs and many of them have attractive flowers. One species is a leafless parasite, *Cuscuta reflexa*, often found tumbling in cascades over different species of Angiosperms.

Ipomoea batatas Poir.

Commonly cultivated for the edible root tubers.

I. pescaprea Sweet.

An extensively creeping and sand binding plant with bilobed leaves.

I. reptans Poir.

A pretty water plant with variable leaves.

I. repans Lam.

A trailing plant in wet places.

Evolvulus alsinoides Linn.

A procumbent herb with light blue flowers.

Aniseia uniflora Choisy.

A prostrate herb. Outer calyx lobes are large and greenish white. *Merremia hastata, M. tridentata, etc.* are twining herbs common on hedges.

Plants like *Porana paniculata, P. volubibis, Quamoclit pinnata, Ipomea hederacea, I. purpurea, I. crassicaulis, I. cairica* and *Jacquemontia paniculata* are grown in gardens.

Personales.

Scrophulariaceae.

This family is predominantly herbaceous and include plants only of moist habitats.

Limnophila heterophylla Benth.

L. gratissima and *L. racemosa* are seen in water logged areas.

Moniera cuneifolia Michx, different species of *Ilysanthes* and *Vandelia* are seen in the paddy fields.

Species of *Torenia* are grown in gardens.

Acanthaceae.

Adhatoda vasica Nees.

Grown as a hedge plant. Medicinally very important. *Rhinacanthus communis, Ruellia prostrata,* species of *Justicia, Asystasia gangetica, Andrographis paniculata, A. echioides* etc. are found in waste places.

Gonandra undulaefolia and species of *Barleria* are grown as ornamental plants.

Lentibulariaceae.

Species of *Utricularia* like *U. flexuosa* and *U. reticulata* are common in paddy fields.

Boraginales.

Boraginaceae.

Heliotropium indicum Linn. Ellida.

A weed commonly found among *Sesasum indicum.*

H. scabrum Retz.

A rough hispid annual.

Lamiales.

Labiatae.

Hyptis suaveolens Poir.

A nasty smelling weed found throughout the district. *Leucas aspera, Anisomeles indica, Pogostemon paniculatus, Ocimum basticum* and *Acrocephalus capitatus* are some of the common weeds.

Ocimum sanctum Linn.

Cultivated in all Hindu houses. Medicinally important.

Coleus parviflorus Benth.

Cultivated as a seasonal crop for the edible tubers.

Coleus amboinicus Lour.

The thick succulent leaves are used medicinally.

C. blumei Benth.

Different varieties are cultiated as foliage plants.

Monocotyledons

Calyciferae.

Butomales.

Hydrocharitaceae.

Vallisneria spiralis Linn.

An aquatic submerged weed.

Blyxa octandra Planch.

A submerged stemless herb.

Aponogetonales.

Aponogetonaceae.

Aponogeton natans Engl. and Kr.

An aquatic herb with pink flowers.

Commelinales.

Commelinaceae.

This family includes mainly succulent weeds like *Commelina bengalensis*, different species of *Aneilema* and *Cyonotis*.

Zingiberales.

Musaceae.

Musa paradisiaca Linn.

A rapidly growing perennial herb propagated by underground rhizomes. There are different varieties of Banana. Most of the varieties are known by different local names.

Zingiberaceae.

Zingiber officinale Rose. (Inchi)

Z. zerumbet Sm. (*Kolinchi*), *Z. casumunar* Roxb. (Erichanna) and *Alpinia galanga* Sw. are some of the members of this family found growing in the district.

Cannaceae.

Canna indica Linn.

Cultivated in gardens for their large showy flowers.

Corolliferae.

Liliales.

Liliaceae.

Uvularieae.

Gloriosa superba Linn. Maenthoni.

A climbing herb with beautiful flowers. The perianth margins are wavy.

Asparageae.

Asparagus racemosus Willd. Sathaveri.

A scandent under shrub. Easily recognised by the semilunar cladodes.

Other plants like *Aloe vera*, *Dracaena* sp., etc. are grown in gardens.

Pontederiaceae.

Monochoria vaginalis Presl.

A marsh herb with a short root stock. Flowers are blue.

Eichhornia crassipes Solms.

A beautiful introduced American plant.

Arales.

Araceae.

Acoreae.

Acorus calamus Linn.

An aromatic marsh herb. The roots are used medicinally and also to protect clothing from insect attack.

Pothoeae.

Pothos scandens Linn. Paravakodi.

A root climber. Plants like *Colocasia esculenta, Amorphophallus campanulatus* etc. are cultivated.

Palmales.

Palmae.

Cocos nucifera Linn.

Extensively cultivated throughout the district.

Areca catechu Linn.

Like the previous one this is also largely cultivated. Other palms like *Borassus flabellifera, Caryota arens* are found here and there.

Calamus sp. Chural.

Found in the hilly regions.

Pandanales.

Pandanaceae.

Pandanus tectorius Soland. Kaitha.

A branched shrub. Leaves are used for mat making.

Glumiflorae

Cyperales.

Cyperaceae.

A family consisting chiefly of weeds in waste and cultivated places. Plants like *Kyllinga monocephala, Cyperus* sp. etc., are found as weeds in waste places. Different species of *Fimbristylis, Scirpus* and few species of *Cyperus* like *C. iria, C. rotundus* etc. are the weeds in cultivated areas.

Graminales.

Gramineae.

Bambusae.

Bambusa arundinacea Willd.

The culms are used for a variety of purposes.

Ochlandra travancorica Gamb.

Culms slender than Bamboo. Used for a variety of purposes.

Oryza sativa Linn.

Cultivated extensively for the edible grains. Other cultivated plants of this family are *Eleusine coracana, Panicum miliare* etc.

Cymbopogon nardus, C. caesius, C. citratus and *Vitiveria zizanoides* are cultivated for the aromatic oil.

Majority of plants included in this family are fodder-grasses like *Panicum repens, Eleusine aegyptiaca, E. indica, Chloris barbata, Cynodon dactylon* and *Setaria.*

FAUNA

The Quilon district lying in close proximity to and to the north of the Trivandrum district has almost the same Fauna and so, apart from a simple enumeration of some of the common types, details will be given only when there is any special feature to be mentioned. It may be noted that it has a wider land area including larger forest regions such as Konni, Ranni, Thenmala and Punalur Divisions and a rich coast line interspersed with lakes and backwaters providing food and shelter for many wading and water birds, resident and migrant, and a great variety of fish. The district also has a large fresh water lake—Sasthamcottah—which attracts many migratory birds and harbours an interesting fauna which has still to be worked out. Among the larger *Mammals* the following may be mentioned.

Primates.

Monkey and monkey-like animals.

1. *Kasi johnii*—The Nilgiri Langur (Mal. Karimkorangu) has become rather rare.
2. *Macaca radiata*—the Bonnet Monkey (Mal. Vellakorangu) is the commonest monkey.

3. *Macaca silenus*—the Lion tailed monkey is a rare animal confined to the dense forests.
4. *Loris gracilis*—the slender Loris (Mal. Kuttithemangu) is with a tail. It lives hidden among thick foliage in the forest.

Carnivora—the Beasts of Prey.

1. *Panthera tigris*—the Tiger (Mal. Kaduva).
2. *Panthera pardus*—the Leopard (Mal. Pulli Puli).
3. *Felis Chaus*—the Jungle Cat. (Mal. Kattu Poocha).
4. *Moschothera civettina*—the large civet (Mal. Veruku).
5. *Viverricula indica*—the small civet (Mal. Veruku).
6. *Pardoxurus hermaphroditus*—the palm Civet or the Toddy Cat. (Mal. Mara-patty).
7. *Herpestes edwardsii*—the Common Mongoose—(Mal. Keeri).
8. *Herpestes fuscus*—the Brown Mongoose—(Mal. Keeri).
9. *Herpestes smithi*—the Ruddy Mongoose—(Mal. Chen Keeri).
10. *Hyaena hyaena*—the striped hyaena. (Mal. Chen-nai).
11 *Canis indicus*—the Jackal (Mal. Kurukkan, Oolan, Kurunari)
12. *Cyon decanensis*—the wild dog (Mal. Chen-nai).
13. *Melursus ursinus*—the sloth Bear (Mal. Karadi).
14. *Lutra vulgaris*—the Otter (Mal. Neer-nai).

Ungulata—the hoofed animals.

1. *Bibos gaurus*—the Indian Gaur—(Mal. Kattu Pothu).
2. *Muntiacus muntjac*—the Barking deer.
3. *Rusa unicolor*—the sambur (Mal. Kalaman).
4. *Axis axis*—the spotted deer (Mal. Pulli man).
5. *Moschiola meminna*—the Chevrotain (Mal. Kezha man).
6. *Hemitragus hylocrius*—the Tahr (Mal. Katt adu).
7. *Sus cristatus*—the wild Boar (Mal. Kattu Panni).

Proboscidea.

Elephas maximus—the Indian Elephant.

Among the smaller mammals the following may be mentioned.

Edentata.

Manis pentadactyla—the Indan Pangolin or scaly Anteater (Mal. Alunku).

Insectivora.

1. *Paraechinus nudiventris*—South Indian hedgehog, rather rare and seldom seen.
2. *Suncus Caerula*—the Shrew or musk rat (Mal. Natcheli).

Chiroptera.

1. *Pteropus medius*—the Indian flying fox—Large Indian fruit eating bat (Mal. Vowal).
2. *Cynopterus marginatus*—the samll fruit eating bat. (Mal. Vowal).
3. *Vesperugo abramus*—the Pipistrelle or common Inscetivorous bat. (Mal. Narachil).

Rodentia.

1. *Hystrix leucura*—the porcupine (Mal. Mullen Panni).
2. *Lepus nigricollis*—the hare (Mal. Muyal).
3. *Funambulus palmarum*—the palm squirrel or the common striped squirrel (Mal. Annan).
4. *Ratufa macrura*—the large forest squirrel confined to forest areas (Mal. Malayannan).
5. *Pteromys oral*—this large flying squirrel is found in the forests, particularly in the Pathanamthitta and Pathanapuram taluks. Its powers of gliding are well developed and from the forests it gets into the adjoining plantations at night. They are reported to do considerable injury to developing coconuts during night time. (Mal. Paran).
6. *Petinomys fuscocapillus*—the smaller flying squirrel, also confined to the forests.
7. *Mus rattus* is the common Indian rat.
8. *Mus musculus* is the house mouse.
9. *Gerbillus indica* is the antelope rat.
10. *Bandicota (Tatera) indica*—the notorious pest Bandicoot (Mal. Thurappan or Panni eli).

Cetacea are aquatic mammals and are represented by the dolphins and porpoises found in the backwaters opening into the sea and the stray whales that are stranded on these shores.

1. *Delphinus delphis*—the common Dolphin.
2. *Phocoena shocoenoides*—(the little Porpoise)

Both these are known as "Kadal Panni" in Malayalam and are common sights at Neendakara Bar mouth as they appear to 'roll' on the surface water in fair weather. The whales that have been received as stranded on this coast include the Fin whale *Balaenoptera indica* and *Megaptera indica*.

AVES. (BIRDS)

The more common birds seen around cultivated and inhabited areas include the following.

Corvus macrorhynchus—The Jungle crow,

Corvus splendens—The House crow.

Dendrocitta—The Tree pie.

Dicrurus—The King crow.

Dissemurus—The Racquct tailed king crow.

Turboides—The Babbers; seven sisters.

Acridotheres tristis—The common Myna.

Motacilla lugubris—The common Wagtail.

Copsychus Saularis—The Magpic robin.

Brachypternus bengalensis—The Golden backed Woodpecker.

Dryobates mahrattensis—The yellow fronted pied Woodpecker.

Hemicircus Cordatus—The Malabar Heart spotted woodpecker.

Cen.ropus sinensis—The crow Pheasant—Coucal.

Upupa epops—The common Hoopoe.

Tchitrea paradisi—The Paradise Fly catcher.

Rhipidura—The Fantail Fly catcher.

Thephrodornis—The shrike.

Oriolus—The Oriole (Mango bird).

Cinnyris—The Sunbird.

Pitta brachyura—The Indian Pitta.

Alcedo atthis teprobana—The Common King fisher.

Halcyon smyrnensis—The white breasted King fisher.

In more open places and near forest areas we can see the following in addition to many of these already mentioned.

Psittacula Krameri—The Rose ringed Green Parakeet.

Psittacula cyanocephala—The Western Blossom headed Parakeet.
Psittacula columboides—The Blue winged Parakeet.
Coryllis vernalis rubropygius—The Malabar Loriquet or the Love-bird.
Coracias bengalensis—The Indian Roller or Blue Jay.
Merops orientalis—The Indian Bee eater.
Dichoceros bicornis—The Great Hornbill.
Tockus griseus—The Malabar Grey Hornbill.

Some common birds are more readily recognised by their characteristic calls and songs than by sight. Among them the following may be noticed.

Megalaima haemacephala—The crimson breasted Barbet or the copper smith.
Megalaima viridis—The Green Barbet.
Caprimulgus asiaticus—The Indian Night jar.
Cuculus micropterus—The Indian Cuckoo.
Cacomantis merulinus—The Plaintive cuckoo or whistling School boy.
Hierococcyx varius—The Hawk Cuckoo or Brain fever bird.
Eudynamis scolopoceus—The Indian Koel.
Molpastes—The Red vented bulbul.
Otocompsa—The Red whiskered bulbul.
Alauda gulgula—The Indian Sky-lark.
Anthus—The Indian Pipit.
Orthotomus sutorius—The Indian Tailor bird.
Common Birds are Prey are—
Haliastur indus—The Brahminy kite.
Milvus govinda—The Pariah kite.
Spizaetus cirrhaetus—The crested Hawk eagle.
Suizaetus cirrhactus—The crested Hawk eagle.
Ictinaetus perniger—The Black eagle.
Falco tinnunculus—The Indian Kestrel.
Sarcogyps calvus—The Black Vulture.
Pseudogyps bengalensis—The white backed Vulture.
Common owls—Nocturnal birds of prey are—
Athene brama—The spotted Owlet.
Otus bakkamena—The Collared Scops Owl.
Strix indranee—The Brown Wood Owl.
Ketupa Zeylonensis—The Brown Fish Owl.
Huhua nipalensis—The Forest Eagle Owl.
Ninox scutulata—The south Indian Hawk Owl.
Common pigeons met with are—

Columba livia—The Blue Rock Pigeon.
Streptopelia chinensis—The Indian spotted Dove.
Chalcophaps indica—The Indian Emerald Dove.
Ducula badia cuprea—Jerdon's Imperial Pigeon.
Dendrophassa pompadora affinis—The Green Pigeon.

Among the well known sporting birds many are resident, others only winter visitors. The resident sporting birds are:—

Gallus sonneratii—The Grey Jungle Fowl.
Perdicula asiatica—The Jungle Bush Quail.
Francolinus pondicerianus—The Grey Partridge.
Galloperdix spadicea—The Red Spur Fowl.
Amaurornis phoenicurus—The Water hen.
Gallinnla chloropus—The Indian Moor hen.
Porphyrio poliocephalus—The Purple Moor hen.
Metopidius indicus—The Bronze winged Jacana.
Hydrophasianus chirugus—The Pheasant tailed Jacana.
Lobivanellus indicus—The Red Wattled lapwing.
Lobivanellus malabarica—The Yellow Wattled lapwing.
Charadrius dubius—The Little Ringed Plover.
Ardeola grayii—The Paddy Bird (Pond Heron).
Ixobrychus sinensis—The Yellow Bittern.
Nycticorax nycticorax—The Night Heron.
Anhinga melanogster—The Snake bird.
Podiceps ruficollis—The Little Grebe (Dabchick).

As winter visitors the following have been recorded:—

Threskiornis melanocephalus—The white Ibis.
Thalasseus bengalensis—The Small Crested Tern.
Thalasseus bergii Velox—The lager crested Terne.
Tringa glareola—The Sand piper.
Capella nemoricola—The Wood Snipe.
Anastomus oscitans—The opantrill stork.
Scolopax rusticola—The Wood cock.
Dendrocygna Javanica—The WhistlingTeal.
Anas Crecca—The Common Teal.

REPTILES

The same type and species as described for the adjoining Trivandrum District occur here also and so the more common types are merely listed.

Common lizards are:—

Calotes versicolor—The Garden Lizard.
Calotes ophimachus—The Green Lizard.

Sitana pondiceriana—The Brown Lizard.
Chameleon zeylanicus—The Chameleon.
Draco—The Flying Lizard, flying dragon.
Hemidactylus—The Gecko or house lizard.
Mabuia carinata—The Common Skink.
Varanus bengalensis—The Monitor Lizard.

Snakes are many and may be poisonous or non-poisonous. The common non-poisonous snakes are the following:—
Typhlops braminus—Small burrowing snake.
Python molurus—The Python.
Eryx johnii—The Eryx
Rhinophis, *Silybura* } The shield tailed snakes.
Ptyas mucosus—The Rat snake.
Lycodon—The common Wolf snake.
Nerodia piscator—The common Fresh water snake.
Rhabdophis stolatus, *Coluber helena* } Hill snakes.
Chersydrus granulatus, *Hurria rhynchops* } The Estuarine Snakes.
Dendrophis—The tree snake (Brown or Yellow)
Dendrelaphis—The tree snake (Green)
Oligodon—
Dryophis mycterizans—The Green Whip Snakes.
Dryophis pulverulentus—The Brown Whip Snakes.
Chrysopelea Ornata—The Golden Snakes or Leaping snake.

The poisonous snakes met with in this District are:—
Naia naia—The Cobra.
Naia hannah—The Hamadryad or King Cobra.
Hemibugarus nigriscens—The Indian Coral snake confined to the hills.
Bungarus candidus—The Krait.
Enhydrina valakadien, *Hydrophis spiralis* } Sea Snakes.
Enhydris curtis
Vipera Russelli—Russel's Viper.
Trimeresurus macrolepis—The arboreal pit viper.

Crocodilia—Crocodiles.

1. *Crocodilus porosus*—(Mal. Muthala) is the large Crocodile living in the estuaries and Backwaters. It occasionally out into the sea.

2. *Crocodilus palustris*—(Mal. Cheenkanni) is smaller than the above and is confined to bodies of fresh water rivers, tanks and fresh water lakes.

Chelonia—The Turtles and tortoises.

1. *Dermochelys*—The Leathery Turtle is the largest of the Turtles occuring along the coasts.
2. *Eretmochelys*—The Hawk's bill turtle.
3. *Chelone mydas*—The green Turtle.
4. *Geoemyda trijuga* is a fresh water tortoise, dark in colour and so called locally "Karama". The dorsal carpace is marked by three longitudinal ridges.
5. *Lissemys punctata* and
6. *Pelochelys* are fresh water tortoises without the characteristic epidermal armours; so they are soft to the touch and are locally called "Pal-ama". They are highly flattened and the former are found in tanks and wells while the latter lives in rivers.
7. *Testudo travancorica* is the land tortoise found in the hills and forests.

AMPHIBIA.

Amphibia include the Frogs, toads and caecilians. None of the tailed Amphibians occur in South India. The Frogs commonly met with are:—

1. *Rana tigrina*—the Bull Frog.
2. *Rana hexadactyla*—The common Frog.
3. *Rana cyanophlictis*—
4. *Rhacophorus maculatus*—The Flying Frog.
5. *Rhacophorus malabaricus*—The Flying Frog.
6. *Cacopus*—the Burrowing Frog.
7. *Ixalus*—found in the hilly tracts.

The toads commonly met with are:—

1. *Bufo malanostictus*—the common toad.
2. *Bufo parietalis*—the toad seen in hills and forests.

The caeilians or leg-less snake like Amphibia are:—

1. *Ichthyophis glutinosus*.
2. *Uraeotyphlus*.
3. *Gegenophis*

They are found in the damp soil near streams, rivers, paddy fields etc.

PISCES (Fishes)

Common cartilaginous fishes are:—

1. *Scoliodon*—Dogfish (Mal. Kutti Sravu).
2. *Chiloscyllium*—Dog fish (Mal. Kutti Sravu).

3. *Stegostoma tigrinum*—The Tiger Shark.
4. *Pristis*—Saw fish (Mal. Komban Sravu)
5. *Rhinobatus*—Skate.
6. *Rhynchobatus*—Skate.
7. *Narcine*—Electric Ray.
8. *Trygon*—Sting Ray (Mal. Mullu Thirundy).
9. *Actobatis*—Eagle Ray (Mal. Kaka Thirundy).

Of the Common bony fishes the following are of food value:—

1. *Lates calcarifer*—Mal. Nari meen.
2. *Serranus*—Mal Chempalli.
3. *Ambassis*—Mal. Choora.
4. *Therapon*—Thol Para.
5. *Pristipoma*—Thol Para.
6. *Upenoides*—Goat fish.
7. *Chanos*—White Mullet — Poo Meen.
8. *Sciaena*— Jew fish — Kora.
9. *Polynemus*—Indian Salmon
10. *Otolithus*—Pallikora.
11. *Sphyraena*—Chelava.
12. *Trichiurns*—Ribbon fish — Chunnampu Vaala.
13. *Rostrelliger*—Mackerel — Ila.
14. *Cybium*—Seer fish — Neymmeen.
15. *Stromateaus*—Pomfret — Avoli.
16. *Caranx*—Horse Mackerel — Para.
17. *Equula*—Silver belly — Paral.
18. *Ophicephalus*—Snake head fish — Viral.
19. *Belose*—Gar fish — Kolan.
20. *Hemirhamphus*—Gar fish — Kolan.
21. *Cynoglossus*—Sole, Flat fish — Nanku Nakku.
22. *Synaptura*—Sole, Flat fish — Nanku.
23. *Arius*—Cat fish — Etta, Kuri.
24. *Wallago*—Cat fish — Attu Vaala.
25. *Chirocentrus*—Dorab — Mullu Vaala.
26. *Clupea*—Oil sardine — Chala, Matthi.
27. *Engraulis*—Sardine — Chala, Manangu.
28. *Anabas*—The climbing Perch — Undi Kalli.
29. *Anguilla*—Fresh water eel — Pampu Meen.
30. *Etroplus*—Pearl spot — Kari meen, Pallathi.
31. *Thynnus*—Tunny — Choora.

There are other bony fishes which are not of food value; but have interesting features of adaptation and ways of life. Some of these are mentioned below:—

1. *Echeneis*—Sucker fish—Ottumeen, Appukuttan.

2. *Hippocampus*—Sea horse — Kadal Kuthira.
3. *Syngnathus*—Pipe fish.
4. *Holocanthus*—Butterfly fish or Angel fish.
5. *Exocoetus*—Flying fish.
6. *Aplocheilus*—Minnow — Manathu Kanni.
7. *Mureana*—Marine eel — Vilangu.
8. .*Gobius*—Gobies.
9. *Salarius*—Blenny or Rock Skipper.
10. *Dactylopterus*—Flying Gurnards.
11. *Antennarius*—Angler fish.
12. *Tetradon*—Puffer fish.
13. *Diodon*—Sea hedgehog.
14. *Ostracion*—Cow fish.
15. *Pterois*—Scorpion fish.
16. *Uranoscopus*—Stargazers.

Among the lowest chordata (*Protochordata*) we have the *Lanceletes* (*Branchiostoma*) and Tunicates such as *Herdmania, Salpa, Botryllus* etc.

THE INVERTEBRATES

These lowly organisms abound on land and in water. Several species of sponges (Porifera) occur along the coasts while the fresh water sponge(*spongilla*) is common in the larger tanks, fresh water lakes and slow flowing rivers.

The Coelenterata are represented by the anemones such as *Sacactis*, which is solitary and *Zoanthus* and *Palythoa* which are colonial and occur abundantly on the rocks along the coasts; different types of coral forming organisms such as Madreporaria, Alcyonaria, Antipatharia and Gorgonia; various zoophytes such as *Obelia, Plumularia, Sertularia, Tubularia, Pennaria, Coryne* etc., Occurring attached, either to the submerged rocks or to the abundant algae of the coastal waters, and the numerous Jelly fishes and comb jellies. Common Jelly fishes are *Aequorea, Cubomedusae, Aurelia, Cyanea, Pelagia* and the abundant Rhizostomes like *Crambionella, Cassiopeia* and *Rhizostoma.* Some species of Rhizostomes enter the back waters during the summer months when the salinity of the water is high.

The Annelida are represented by the marine bristle worms, burrowing and tube making worms, terrestrial earth-worms and the Leeches. Primitive annelids (Archiannelida) are represented by the small *Polygordius, Protodrilus, Saccocirrus,* etc., which occur burrowing in the wet sand along the coasts.

Among the Polychaets (marine bristle worms) the following may be mentioned—

Free living

1. *Nereis* the commonest bristle worm found wriggling among the rocks and algae. In the breeding season it takes to a free swimming life having undergone suitable and necessary changes in structure.
2. *Eunice* and *Diopatra* are large worms living partly inside parchment like tubes which they secrete. During the breeding season these also leave their tubes and swim out in the open sea.
3. *Syllis*.

This is an interesting genus in which curious methods of asexual reproduction are seen. In the breeding season these too undergo special modifications and swim out; this "Swarming" in some species is accompanied by considerable display of phosphorescence.

4. *Polynoe* and *Lepidonotus* are curious worms with short flattened body covered by flat scale like structures and living hidden on the under side of submerged rocks.
5. *Aphrodite is* a queer 'worm' that has rightly been termed the "Sea mouse". The body is short, stout and broad with special adaptation to burrow and live in the muddy bottom.
6. *Tomopteris* is another curious worm which has got adapted to live floating on the surface water.

Tube dwelling.

Some worms secrete tubes in which they live permanently. The body shows corresponding modifications for such a habit. A few common examples are given below.

1. *Terebella* is a common tube-dwelling worm with a parchment-like tube buried in the bottom of shallow water.
2. *Serpula* has a twisted shell of calcium carbonate which is seen frequently on the under side of submerged rocks.
3. *Spirorbes* a small worm living in a spirally coiled calcareaus shell encrusting sea weeds or rocks.
4. *Pectinaria and Sabellaria* are common worms living in large colonies and building reefs of porous rock composed of aggregations of their sand tubes.
5. *Sabella* lives on the muddy bottom in a parchment tuble.

The earthworms (Oligochaete) are mostly terrestrial but a few are found in fresh water.

1. *Megascolex* is the commonest earthworm.
2. *Pheretima* is a darker worm found in certain soils.

3. *Glyphidrilus* is a worm which has adaptations to live submerged in water. It is found in clayey innundated paddy fields.
4. *Moniligaster* is the giant earthworm found in the forests.
5. *Drawida* similar to Moniligaster.
6. Several species live in water eg., *Stylaria, Dero, Branchiodrilus, Tubifex, Aulosoma* etc.

The Leeches are represented by—

1. *Hirudinaria* the common cattle leech.
2. *Glossiphonia* the small fresh water leech sucking blood from frogs and fishes.
3. *Branchellion and Ozobranchus* are parasitic on fishes and Turtles respectively. Both have respiratory gills on the sides.
4. *Pontobdella* is large marine leech parastic on fishes.

THE ARTHROPODA

Four classes of Arthropoda are represented—Crustacea (Prawns and crabs), Myriapoda (Centipedes and millipedes), Insecta (Insects) and Arachnida (Spiders and Scorpions). The common types described for the Trivandrum district occur here too and so a detailed account will be unnecessary.

The smaller crustaceans including *Cyclops, Limnadia, Cypris* etc., are abundant in fresh water while in the sea we have *Calanus*, mysis, *Gammarids, Idotea, Cymothoa* etc., and as specially adapted terrestrial forms are the sand hoppers (*Orchestia*) *Ligia, Nesoilla* and *Nagara*.

The Decapod crustacea are represented by Prawns (*Penaeus, Palaemon*) Lobsters (*Palinurus* and *Thenus*) Hermit crabs (*Clibanarius*) mole crabs (*Emerita* and *Albunea*) and the true crabs—*Neptunus, Scylla, Matuta* etc., in the water; *Ocypoda, Philyra, Gelasimus* etc., living in the moist shores. *Paratelphusa* is a fresh water crab found commonly in paddy fields.

Myriapoda. Common centipedes are *Scolopendra, Rhysida*; *Orphanaeus* and *Mecistocephauls* are geophilids the former with phosphoresscence. Among the millipedes may be mentioned *Spirostreptus, Jonespeltis, Arthrosphaera,* and *Trachyulus.*

Insecta. All the major groups are well represented and brief descriptions have been given in the Trivandrum account.

Insects injurious to cultivation.

Grass hoppers and locusts.

Thrips—*Scirtothrips* causes wilting of chilie plants.
Taeniothrips, a pest of cardamom plants.

Bugs—Coptosoma on peas.
Aspongopus injures cucurbitaceous plants.
Leptocorissa is a major pest of paddy plants.
Helopeltis is a major pest of Tea plants.

Aphids, Coccids (Scale insects.) are all injurious to various plants.

Beetles—*Oryctes* is the Rhinoceros beetle—a notorious pest of cocoanut palm.

Epilachna feeds on the leaves of many vegetable garden plants.

Hispa is a serious pest of paddy.

Rhynchophorus—the palm weevil, injuring cocoanut and other palms.

Lepidoptera. *Pericallia* is a moth whose caterpillars (hairy) are pests on many plants.

Nephantis. Its larva is a pest on cocoanut palm eating away the leaves.

Spodoptera. Rice swarming caterpillar; when abundant can destroy acres of growing paddy.

Hyblaea and Hapalia are found in Teak plantations defoliating the young Teak plants as they grow.

Insects injurious to stored products—

Termites—(White ants). *Isoptera, Odontotermes*—destructive to wood, paper, etc.

Beetles—*Calandra*—stored paddy and other seeds.

Tribolium—feeds on flour etc.,

Lepidoptera—*Sitotroga*—Paddy moth—"White fly" of stored paddy.

Corcyra—feeds on flour.

Tinea—a small moth the larva of which destroys flannel fur etc.
Diptera are the flies—*Daccus* and *Chatodaccus* are the fruit flies, destructive to various fruits.

Insects serving as transmitters of disease.

Blood sucking bugs such as Bed bug (*Cimex*) and several species of Reduvid bugs like *Conorhinus* are common. Sand flies (*Phlebotomus*) occur in shady moist places.
Mosquitoes (*Anopheles*, *Culex*, *Mansonoides* etc.,) and the House fly (*Musca*) are every where.

Xenopsylla—the flea.

Insects which are useful to man.

Feeding on injurious insects—

Dragon flies: Several species.

Chrysopa and *Hemerobius*, feeding on injurious aphides, scale insects. Tiger beetles feed on many injurious insects. Wasps of various types, some killing other insects for food for themselves or young; others are parasitic on other insects and destroy them. Parasites are *Trichograma* on several injurious insects and *Trichospilus pupivora* feeding on *Nephantis*, a pest of cocoanut.

Yielding valuable products.

Tachardia lacca is the Lac insect. Commercial lac is a resinous secretion of these insects.

Bees give honey and Wax.

Insects of curious forms or habits.

Mantises—*Hierodula, Evantissa, Gongylus.*

Stick Insect—*Schizocephalus*; *Carausius.*

Leaf insect—*Pulchiphyllium.*

Ant lion, the larvae living in pits in sand (*Myrmeleon*) and feeding on stray ants.

Liminescent beetles are *Luciola* and *Lamprophorus*. *Kallima* is the dead leaf butterfly; when it alights it is so perfectly like a dead leaf that it will not be found out by the enemies. Water beetles and water bugs are abundant.

Arachnida represented by numerous spiders of all families, scorpions, whip scorpion, scorpion spiders, ticks and mites.

MULLUSCA

An account of the members of this large and interesting group occurring in Kerala has been given in the faunistic part of the *Kozhikode Gazetteer* and so no repetition is necessary.

A noteworthy addition is the presence of *Sanguinolaria* (*Lamellibranchiata*) in numbers along the muddy shores of Neendakara.

ECHINODERMATA

This interesting group of Spiny Skinned animals of the sea has been only little studied and so details are not known. It includes the Star Fishes, Brittle stars, Echinoids (sea urchins) Holothurians (sea cucumbers) and the Crinoids (sea lilies). They are all confined to the sea and all groups show to a greater or less extent a radial arrangement of parts (radial symmetry).

1. *Asteroidea* (Star fishes)

Astropecten
Palmipes
Asterina
Pentaceros

2. *Ophiuroidea* (Brittle stars)

   Ophiacoma
   Ophiothrix
   Ophiactis

3. *Echinoidea* (Sea urchins)

   Stomopneustes
   Salmacis
   Temnopleura
   Echinodiscus
   Lovenia

4. *Holothuroidea* (Sea cucumbers)

   Holothuria
   Stichopus
   Cucumaria
   Synapta

5. *Crinoidea* (Sea lilies))

   Antedon
   Tropiometra

CLIMATE

The district has a tropical humid climate, with an oppressive summer and plentiful seasonal rainfall. The hot season March to May is followed by the southwest monsoon season from June to September. October and November form the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season. The period from December to February is the northeast monsoon season, with the rains associated with it ceasing by about the end of December, and the rest of the period being generally dry.

Rainfall

Rainfall records in the district are available for nine stations for periods ranging from 46 to 70 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in Tables II and III. The average annual rainfall in the district is 2778.8 mm (109.40"). The rainfall generally increases from the southwest to the northeast. Paravur in the southern corner of the district on the coast gets annually 2081.2 mm (81.94"). At Konni at the foot of the western ghats the annual rainfall is 3463.2 mm. (136.34"). In the region of the western ghats the rainfall will be much heavier. Owing to its position near the southern extremity of the Peninsula, the district benefits both from the southwest and the northeast monsoons. Rainfall mostly in the form of

thundershowers in the summer and post monsoon season constitutes a good portion of the annual total of rainfall. The southwest monsoon bursts over the district by the end of May and June is the month with the highest rainfall. July too is a very rainy month A secondary maximum of rainfall occurs in October. The southwest monsoon rains called locally as 'Edavappathi' as they start in the middle of the Malayalam month "Edavam' and the post monsoon and northeast monsoon rains called 'Thula varsham' are equally important for agriculture. The range of variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is not much. In the fifty year period 1901 to 1950, the highest rainfall in a year was in 1933 when it amounted to 140% of the normal. In 1908, the year with the lowest rainfall, it was 77% of the normal. There were only two years in the fifty year period when the rainfall was less than 80% of the normal. At some individual stations two consecutive years with rainfall less than 80% of the normal have occurred once in the fifty year period. It will be seen from Table III that in 30 years out of 50 the annual rainfall in the district was between 2500 and 3100 mm (98.43 and 122.05").

On an average there are 131 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm — 10 cents — or more) in a year. This number varies from 100 at Paravur to 156 at Konni.

The highest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 292.9 mm (11.53") at Paravur on November 10, 1925.

Temperature

There is only one meteorological observatory in the district and it is located at Punalur. The records of this observatory are available only for a few years. However, as the meteorological conditions in the district are mostly similar to those in the neighbouring districts of Trivandrum and Alleppey, the description of the climate which follows is based on the data collected at the observatories at Trivandrum and Alleppey and the meagre data for Punalur. The temperature variations through the different seasons are not large. The hottest period of the year is from February to about the end of May. The temperatures in the coastal region are somewhat less than in the interior. In this season the average daily maximum temperature is of the order of 32 to 33° C (89.6 to 91.4° F) in the coastal region and in the interior they are of the order of 35 to 36° C (95.0 to 96.8° F). The comparative coolness in the coastal region is due to the effect of sea breezes. In

the interior of the district the maximum temperatures may sometimes be as high as 39° C (102.2° F). These high temperatures coupled with high humidities make the weather oppressive. In April and May the heat is relieved by thunder-showers. With the arrival of the southwest monsoon by about the end of May, temperatures decrease and generally the monsoon season is pleasant. After September the day temperatures increase slightly but the night temperatures decrease.

Humidity

The air is highly humid practically all the year round. The relative humidity during the months December to May is slightly less than in the rest of the year.

Cloudiness

Skies are heavily clouded or overcast in the southwest monsoon season and to a lesser extent in the post monsoon season. In the summer and post monsoon months the cloudiness is more in the afternoons than in the mornings. In January and February skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

During the period May to September the winds are moderate and occasionally strong particularly in the coastal region. In the rest of the year winds are light to moderate. During the period December to February winds are mainly north easterly or easterly in the mornings and westerly or south-westerly in the afternoons. In summer northerly to north-westerly winds prevail in the mornings while in the afternoons they blow from a more westerly direction. In the southwest monsoon season winds blow from directions between west and north. In October winds are lighter and blow from north-westerly to northerly directions in the mornings and from the west or northwest in the afternoons. In November winds are variable in direction in the mornings and in the afternoons they are from directions between south and west.

Special weather phenomena

In the summer and the post monsoon seasons thunderstorms, mostly in the afternoons, occur on about 25% of the days. Occasional thunderstorms occur in the period December to February. Even during the southwest monsoon season the rains are often associated with thunder. Occasionally the district is affected by storms which move from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea across the extreme south of the peninsula in November and December. On such occasions the district experiences widespread heavy rains and strong winds.

TABLE—II

Normals and extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. years of data		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal & year **	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal & year **	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*
Pathanamthitta	46	a	35.3	48.0	114.3	217.9	315.0	567 3	534.7	398.8	275.3	412.0	299.5	78.5	3305.6	146 (1933)	72 (1909)	199.4 1948 Aug. 3
		b	1.9	2.4	6.1	10.8	12.9	22.4	22.6	18.4	13.7	15.8	12.0	3.7	142.7			
Konni	46	a	31.7	53.3	136.7	242.3	335.3	604.8	677.5	429.8	283.5	412.5	274.6	58.2	3463.2	157 (1924)	75 (1934)	208.3 1946 Oct. 13
		b	1.8	2.8	7.7	12 8	14.7	23.7	23.6	20 7	14.3	17.8	12.5	3.8	156.2			
Adur	50	a	22.3	33.3	96.0	188.2	268.0	567 2	494.0	349.8	247.1	351.8	254.0	63.3	2935.0	158 (1933)	73 (1908)	223.5 1932 May 27
		b	1.6	2.0	5.1	10.2	11.8	22.6	22.7	18.8	14.0	16.1	12.3	3.8	141.0			
Karunagapally	50	a	20.6	19.3	49.3	116.1	275.6	551.9	407.9	261.1	216.7	285.7	209.3	49.0	2462.5	148 (1929)	46 (1916)	254.0 1932 Aug. 30
		b	1.0	1.2	3.1	7.0	11.5	21.5	19.1	14.3	11.4	12.8	9.5	2.8	115.2			
Punalur	50	a	19.6	38.3	103.9	218.2	292.3	580.4	541.5	339.9	252.7	431.5	271.5	69.6	3159.4	161 (1946)	63 (1934)	220.2 1941 May 27
		b	1.3	1.9	4.8	10.1	11.8	22.6	23.2	18.0	12.8	17.0	11.3	3.4	138.2			

ottarakara	50	a	17.8	26.2	71.9	152.4	259 1	534.9	430.3	308.9	228.6	342.4	229.9	60.7	2662.8	148 (1933)	68 (1908)	232.9 1933 May 22
		b	1.3	1.7	4.3	9.2	11.5	22.5	22.3	18.2	13.5	15.4	10.5	3.9	133.7			
Aryankavu	46	a	45.2	30.2	78.2	89.1	156.5	485.7	431.0	290.1	204.2	350.8	285.0	96.5	2542.5	148 (1914)	60 (1932)	244.9 1925 Nov. 9
		b	2.5	2.0	4.0	6.4	8.1	20.8	21.2	17.5	12.7	16.8	13.1	5.2	130.2			
Quilon	46	a	17.8	22.6	50.0	140.2	267.2	530.6	377.9	246.4	195.3	293.9	209.0	47.2	2398.1	146 (1933)	67 (1908)	281.9 1945 Oct. 18
		b	1.3	1.4	3.2	7.4	11.7	21.8	20.0	14.7	12.2	13.5	10.0	3.0	120.2			
Paravur	46	a	12.7	17.5	45.7	110.2	219.5	448.8	323.9	215.1	167.6	282.2	194.8	43.2	2081.2	156 (1933)	56 (1928)	292.9 1925 Nov. 10
		b	1.0	1.0	2.6	6.4	9.7	19.2	17.0	11.8	9.2	12.0	8.3	2.2	100.4			
Quilon (Dist.)		a	24.7	32.1	82.9	163.8	265.4	524.3	460.2	315.5	230.1	351.4	247.5	62.9	2778.8	140 (1933)	77 (1908)	
		b	1.5	1.8	4.5	8.9	11.5	21.9	21.3	16.9	12.6	15.2	11.1	3.5	130.7			

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

* Based on all available data up to 1956.

** Years given in brackets

TABLE—III

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District

(Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm.	*No. of years*	*Range in mm.*	*No. of years*
2101—2300	9	3101—3300	6
2301—2500	8	3301—3500	1
2501—2700	14	3501—3700	0
2701—2900	5	3701—3900	2
2901—3100	11		

APPENDIX

List of Villages in Quilon District

Revenue Division	*Taluk*	*Villages.*
Quilon	Quilon	(1) Paravur, (2) Poothakulam, (3) Meenad, (4) Kalluvathukkal, (5) Adichanalloor, (6) Nedumpana, (7) Thrikovilvattam, (8) Vadakkevila, (9) Eravipuram, (10) Mayyanad, (11) Quilon, (12) Thrikaruva, (13) Thrikadavur, (14) Perinad, (15) Mulavana, (16) Kilikollur, (17) Kottamkara, (18) East Kallada, (19) Munro Island.
	Kottarakara	(1) Melila, (2) Vettikavala, (3) Kottarakara, (4) Neduvathur, (5) Kulakada, (6) Ezhukone, (7) Thrippilazhikam, (8) Pavithreswaram, (9) Ummannur, (10) Veliyam, (11) Pooyapally, (12) Velinallur, (13) Elamadu, (14) Ittiva, (15) Chadayamangalam, (16) Kadakkal, (17) Chithara, (18) Mylam.
	Karunagappally	(1) Thekkumbhagam, (2) Chavara, (3) Panmana, (4) Thevalakara, (5) Mynagapally, (6) Thodiyur, (7) Karunagappally, (8) Kulasekharapuram, (9) Thazhava, (10) Krishnapuram, (11) Perunadu.
Adur	Kunnathur	(1) Sooranad North, (2) Sooranad South (3) West Kallada, (4) Sasthamcotta, (5) Poruvazhy, (6) Kadampanad, (7) Kunnathur, (8) Peringanad, (9) Pallickal, (10) Adur, (11) Erathu, (12) Ezhamkulam, (13) Enadimangalam, (14) Koodal, (15) Kodumon, (16) Angadikkal.
	Pathanapuram	(1) Punalur, (2) Vilakkudy, (3) Karavalur, (4) Anchal, (5) Edamulakkal, (6) Alayamon, (7) Arakkal, (8) Kulathupuzha, (9) Eroor, (10) Aryankavu, (11) Edamon, (12) Piravanthur, (13) Pathanapuram, (14) Pathazhimaloor, (15) Thalavur, (16) Pidavur.
	Pathanamthitta	(1) Elanthoor, (2) Omallur, (3) Chennirkara, (4) Pathanamthitta, (5) Ranni, (6) Vadasserikara, (7) Perunad, (8) Angadi, (9) Pazhavangadi, (10) Konnithazham, (11) Konni, (12) Chethakkal, (13) Iravon, (14) Malayalapuzha, (15) Cherukole, (16) Naranganam, (17) Vallicode (18) Pramadom, (19) Mallapuzhasserry.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Prehistory and Archaeology

The history of the Quilon District is intimately bound up with that of the neighbouring District of Trivandrum. From prehistoric to modern times Quilon has had a spacious and chequered history. The prehistory of the region is a blank, but we have some information about a few prehistoric sites that have come to light in the Pathanamthitta and Kunnathur Taluks of the District. Megalithic monuments belonging to the neolithic period have been found in these sites. The most important of them are dolmens, locally known as *Pandukuzhis*. They are believed to be burial chambers in which people of importance were buried in late Neolithic times and are found scattered on the long chain of wooded hills. The dolmens found on lower elevations in the Ranni Reserves are comparatively small in size. "The dolmen at Kadukuthi in the Ranni Reserve is rectangular and the portion above ground is 8 feet by 2¼ feet in dimensions. It has only one gallery. Length-wise, it has one single upright on one side, and two others on the opposite side. Sideways, there is one on each side. The floor is paved with a single side slab. The capstone is 7 feet by 7¾ feet and is rudely triangular. The dolmen is situated on the crest of a hill. It appears to have been a dolmen of the earliest times as it is built of unhewn blocks of stone. The presence of stones lying scattered round the dolmen shows that it might have been covered over with them."[1]

In 1960 an extensive megalithic burial site was discovered in a Rubber Estate and Reserve Forest Area at Bhootamkara in the village of Enadimangalam in Kunnathur Taluk. The megalithic monuments found here are believed to be cist circles. According to this burial practice a pit is dug and lined with huge roughly trimmed slabs. A cist in *Swastika* fashion is formed and on the eastern wall of the pit a hole is dug to keep the bones, pottery, implements etc. The uprights rest on a floor slab. When the burial ceremonies are over the hole is closed by placing heavy slabs of stone over the uprights. The whole tomb thus made is covered by a massive capstone and then surrounded by huge unhewn rocks on the surface. Several

1. *The Travancore Tribes and Castes*, Vol. III, L. A. Krishna Iyer, pp. 53-54.

such megaliths have been found located at Bhootamkara. The internal diameter of the circle of these megaliths ranges from 25′ to 18′ 6″. The Department of Archaeology, Kerala State, is taking steps to declare a part of the area protected and to carry on further excavations there in the hope that the study of the materials inside the cists might throw welcome light on the prehistoric culture of Kerala.[1]

The historical archaeology of the Quilon District may be studied with reference to the temples, stone images, inscriptions and ruins of forts and palaces which are found in different parts of the area. There are temples located in such places as Quilon, Velunallur, Kottarakara, Chirakara, Chathannur, Ariankavu, Mannadi and Sasthamkotta. Some of these temples can claim much antiquity, but no architectural peculiarities are associated with them.

The archaeological relics of the District include two interesting stone images of the Buddha discovered by the Archaeological Department of the erstwhile Travancore State from Maruthurkulangara in the Karunagapally Taluk and Pallickal in the Kunnathur Taluk.[2] These images which represent the Buddha in the *Yogasana* posture are considered to be fine examples of 9th century sculpture.[3] The image discovered from Maruthurkulangara was obtained from the bank of a tank locally known as Pallikalkulam and it is now preserved in front of the Taluk office at Karunagapally.[4] The other image discovered from Pallickal is a headless one and is preserved in the Museum at Trivandrum[5]. The cloth worn by

1 These details have been taken from a press release issued by the Director of Public Relations, Kerala State, on June 30, 1960.

2 For details see *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II.

3 *Arts and Crafts of Travancore*, Dr. Kramrisch, Dr. Cousins and R. Vasudeva Poduval, p. 49.

4 All places called Pallickal in Kerala seem to have been associated with Buddha worship in the past.

5 T. A. Gopinatha Rao, the late Superintendent of Archaeology, Travancore State, has the following story to tell about the circumstances under which he obtained this image from its owner. "The owner of the plot of ground was under the impression that this strange deity, locally known as *Puttarachan*, was causing illness to the inmates of his house. He was glad to part with it to me for a small consideration, if only I dared to remove it myself from its situation. I consented to bear the sin or virtue of removing it and brought it from him at my cost for presenting it to the Museum at Trivandrum. He was pleased to get rid of it, because he could clear the jungle and reclaim the land for cultivation." *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p.122.

the Buddha in this image is shown running over the ankles, the chest and the shoulder, its folded portion being thrown on the left shoulder and descending down the chest. It may be mentioned in this connection that Quilon District was one of the areas of Kerala State where Buddhism exercised a predominant influence on the life of the people at an early period of its history.[1]

In spite of the historical importance of Quilon only very few relics of old palaces and forts are found in the District. No traces of the ruins of the Panamkavil Palace which was once the residence of the early Venad Kings may be seen today in Quilon town. . Even the exact spot where the palace was once situated is not known. Nevertheless, it is surmised that the Panamkavil Palace might have been located either in the premises where the Quilon Railway Station now stands or in the neighbouring locality of Iravipuram. The relics of old buildings were discovered from the premises of the Quilon Railway Station when the place was being excavated prior to the construction of the station. Similarly it is learnt that near Iravipuram there is even today a place called '*Talai Venad Koil*' (the first Venad Palace). The relics of old stone walls in ruins may be seen in several rows in the ocean at some distance from the coast here and the people of the locality believe that they are the ruins of ancient forts and palaces.[2] Moreover, remnants of old buildings were discovered from beneath the earth at Iravipuram when the compound in which the new Church (*Puthanpalli*) now stands was excavated some years ago. In 1963 some fishermen of Iravipuram also brought to the shore pieces of stones and pillars which were evidently the remnants of some old edifice there. The remnants of a fortress and a trench are to be seen in Chandanapally in the Kodumon Pakuthi of Kunnathur Taluk. This fort once belonged to the Chenneerkara Raja. The ruins of the old Portuguese fort and tower may also be seen at Tangassery. In the Mudakara

1 For a detailed study of Buddhism in ancient Kerala the following works may be referred to (1) *Buddhism in Kerala* by P. C. Alexander, (2) *Keralavum Buddhamathavum* by S. Sanku Ayyar, (3) *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II and (4) *Story of Buddhism with special reference to South India* published by the Government of Madras in 1960.

2 For details see Chapter on Panamkavil Kottaram in *Unnuneeli Sandesam Charitradrishtiyiloode*, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, pp. 117-29.

Church amidst the fishermen's quarters in Quilon may be seen a tombstone bearing an epitaph dated 1771.[1]

Inscriptions

The District is also noted for its inscriptions, though they are not many. The Tarisapalli Copper Plates dated 849 A.D., the Mampalli Plate dated 149 K.E. (973 A.D.) and the Rameswarathukoil Inscription dated 278 K.E. (1102 A.D.) are epoch-making documents which loom large in the annals of Kerala epigraphy. An inscription of Kollam Era 513 (1337-38)[2] and another of Kollam Era 516 (1340-41)[3] have been obtained from the Rameswarathukoil in Quilon. Both these inscriptions are in the Tamil language and they record certain gifts to the temple on the part of private donors from Pandya country. Yet another inscription is also found engraved on the south base of the same temple and from its subject matter it is believed that this record is in some way connected with the inscription of Kollam Era 513 (1337-38)[4]. In the Bhagavathi temple at Quilon there is an inscription in modern Tamil dated A.D. 1828 which records the story of the construction of the temple.[5] It states that the Goddess Bhagavathi appeared in a dream to one Angappa Jamedar and desired that a temple should be built for her and that the shrine was subsequently erected on a piece of land which was obtained by the Jamedar as a gift for the purpose through the good office of Col. Woodhouse.

A *Vattezhuthu* inscription of Kollam Era 448 (1273 A.D.) has been found engraved on the base of the inner shrine of the Sastha temple at Chathannur. One of the most important inscriptions discovered from the District is the Vattezhuthu record engraved on a slab of stone set up in the Siva Temple at Pozhikarai.[6] The language of the inscription is the Tamil which prevailed in Kerala about 900 A.D. One point which is noteworthy about the Pozhikarai Inscription is that the assembly of the "Three Hundred" or "Munnoottuvar" of Venad finds mention in it.[7] The Inscription may be assigned to the 9th or 10th century A.D.

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. VIII. p. 103.
2 *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 46.
3 *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 47.
4 Ibid., Vol. VIII, p. 101.
5 Ibid., Vol. VII, p. 103.
6 Ibid., Vol. VII, p. 58.
7 The "Munnuttuvar" was the popular assembly of Venad which was consulted by the ruler in all important matters of State.

Among the inscriptions of the District the Tiruvelunannur records deserve special mention.[1] They are kept in the Trivandrum Museum and consist of a set of 38 copper plates. They relate to the accounts of the temple of Tiruvelunannur and range in date from the 15th to the 18th centuries A.D. The language and script of the records is Malayalam. These inscriptions mention two royal names, namely, Vira Koda Varman of the Elayadathuswarupam who figures in two of the records and Vira Kerala Rama Varma of Kizhperur who figures in two others.

A *Vattezhuthu* record in the Manikanteswara temple at Kottarakara contains two fragmentary inscriptions engraved on the base of the *Garbhagriha* on either side of the main entrance.[2] This inscription records certain restrictions and privileges in regard to admission to the *Salai* attached to the temple for those born in certain specified tracts of the country such as Kuttanadu, Kavanaru, Mattapally etc. The two fragments form part of a single record. A few other inscribed slabs bearing beautiful and well-formed *Vattezhuthu* letters are lying about in the temple's *Prakara* and in the premises of the Namboothiri Madhom on the bund of the tank. These inscriptions have been assigned to the 12th or 13th century A.D., but they contain no information of historical value.

A *Vattezhuthu* record[3] dated Kollam Era 410 (1235 A.D.) is found engraved on the east base of the central shrine of the Vishnu temple at Kottathali in the Kottarakara Taluk. It registers the gift made by a private philanthropist for feeding three men on the day of Punartham in the month of Dhanu (December-January) and 12 men in all on the other two days namely, Ayilyam in Chingam (August-September) and Chatayam in Meenam (March-April). The inscription is not historically important, but its script which belongs to the first half of the 13th century A.D., invests it with some palaeographic interest. Moreover, the language of the inscription shows a definite stage in the evolution of the Malayalam language. Inscriptions both in the *Vattezhuthu* and Malayalam scripts have been discovered also from the Siva Temple at Vettikavala in the Kottarakara Taluk.[4] Yet another important epigraphical record of the District is the Pattazhi Copper

1. *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. V, p. 48.
   Tiruvelunannur is Velunallur in Kottarakara Taluk.
2. *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 59.
3. *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 65.
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 140.

Scroll[1] dated Kollam Era 971 (1796 A.D.) received from the Bhagavathi temple at Pattazhi in the Kottarakara Taluk. The inscription relates to the *Prayaschitta* or expiation in the form of a monetary fine of hundred Rasis which the *Karakkar* connected with the Bhagavathi temple were forced to pay at the instance of the Namboothiripad of Akavur for having defied the authority of the Kampithan who was in sole charge of the administration of the temple properties. The inscription is important in that it gives us an insight into the relations that existed between the *Uraler* and *Karaler* in regard to matters of temple administration in the 18th century.

Three unimportant records are found engraved on a stone built into the floor near the north gateway, on a pillar in the *Vazhiambalam* and on the base of the north shrine respectively of the Kankalanathaswami temple at Adur in the Kunnathur Taluk.[2] To the north of Chandanapally fort in the Kodumon Pakuthi of Kunnathur Taluk there are three ancient temples containing several important inscriptions in *Vattezhuthu* characters.[3] In the Sastha temple at Omallur in Pathanamthitta Taluk there are six inscriptions. Of these three are in Malayalam two in Telugu and one in Tamil. The Telugu epigraphs are damaged and they are hardly decipherable except for a few stray syllables.[4]

EARLY HISTORY

Antiquity of Quilon

The antiquity of Quilon, both the town and the District, is a matter of conjecture. According to the St. Thomas tradition one of the seven churches founded in Kerala by Apostle St. Thomas (52 A.D.) was located at Quilon. But neither the works of early classical geographers nor the Tamil poems of the Sangam age contain references to Quilon in its present name. It is however certain that in the early centuries of the Christian Era the bulk of the present Quilon District formed part of the Ay Kingdom which comprised almost all the territories lying to the South of Thiruvalla (Alleppey District). Though there are no specific references to Quilon as such in early works, there are certain places mentioned in the accounts

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series* Vol. VI, p. 93.
2 *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 109.
3 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. IV, T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 664.
4 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. VII, p. 131.

of Pliny and Ptolemy and the *Periplus* which scholars seek to identify with places which fall within the present Quilon District. Pliny (23-79 A.D.) who gives an accurate description of the route to India, of the land of Malabar and its main articles of trade mentions one Cottonara as the region from which pepper was conveyed in "boats formed from single logs." The place has been identified with modern Kottarakara which produces pepper in abundance and of the finest quality.[1] Pliny also says that Greek ships anchored at either Muziris or Nilkanda, the former of which has been identified with Cranganore (Trichur District) and the latter with Neendakara in the Quilon District.[2] The author of the *Periplus* who wrote in the first century A.D. also refers to Nilkanda and says that its distance from Muziris is nearly 500 stadia, whether measured from river to river or by the sea voyage and that it belonged to a different kingdom (the Ay Kingdom?). It is perhaps significant that the *Periplus* refers to the Varkala hills and Cape Comorin both of which lay in the region to the south of the present Quilon District. Ptolemy's geography (139 A.D.) also mentions Nilkanda and specifically states that "South of Nilkanda lies the country of the Aivi." Here perhaps is evidence of the fact that a part of the Quilon District was included in the Ay Kingdom.

Many songs in the *Ahananuru* contain references to an Ay principality which ruled with its headquarters at Veliyam in the Kottarakara Taluk.[3] Ay Eynan the ruler of Veliyam was a gallant soldier and he was the leader of the Chera army which fought against Minili, the famous Commander-in-Chief of Nannan of Ezhi Mala. He died a heroic death in the battle of Pazhi.[4] Eynan was the brother-in-law of the Chera Emperor Nedum Cheralatan. It may be surmised from this that by the 5th century A.D. the Cheras had extended their power over the northern portions of the Ay Kingdom and the whole of the modern Quilon District had come to be included in the Chera dominion.

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1 *History of Kerala*, Vol. IV, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 308-309.

2 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. I, V. Nagam Aiya, p. 239. It may be mentioned in this connection that Col. Yule thinks that Kallada 12 miles north east of Quilon or some place in the neighbourhood is the site of the Nilkanda of classical geographers.

3 Aham 148, 181, 208.

4 *Keralam Anchum Arum Noottandukalil*, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, pp. 67-70.

Historians are not agreed as to when exactly the first authentic reference to the town of Quilon is made. According to writers like Logan, Padmanabha Menon and Nagam Aiya the earliest reference to the town of Quilon is to be found in the *Topographia Indica Christiana* written by the Byzantine monk Cosmos Indicopleustus who visited the Malabar coast in 522 A.D. Cosmos wrote, "In the island of Taprobane (Ceylon) there is a church of Christians and clerks and faithful. Likewise at Mali where the pepper grows and in the town of Kalliana,[1] there is also a Bishop consecrated in Persia." These writers indentify Mali with Quilon[2]. The same writers also find a reference to Quilon in a letter written by the Nestorian Patriarch Jesajabus who died in 660 A.D. to Simon, Metropolitan of Persia. The passage in the letter says that "not only is India which extends from the coast of the Kingdom of Persia to Colon, a distance of 1200 *parasangs*, deprived of the regular ministry, but Persia itself is left in darkness." The Colon referred to in the above passage is identified with Quilon.[3] It has also been pointed out that according to the records of the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.) Quilon was the chief settlement of the early Chinese traders and that they gave it the name Mahlai.[4] But the identification of Mali, Colon and Mahlai with Quilon has not been accepted by all writers. Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai is of the view that there is no reference to Quilon till 8th century A.D.[5] If the identification of Quilon with the place names mentioned earlier is correct, it is certain that the town must have been a seat of Christianity and a flourishing centre of Chinese trade long before the beginning of the Kollam Era, (825 A.D.). In 822 A.D. two Nestorian priests by name Mar Sapor and Mar Peroz are also said to have landed at Quilon from Babylon and founded a Christian Colony there.[6]

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1 Kalliana is identified with a place near Udupi in South Canara. *Malabar Manual*, Vol. I, Logan, p. 253.

2 *History of Kerala*, Vol. I. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 271. McGrindle in his translation of the work of Cosmos Indicopleustus, however, identifies Mali with Malabar and Kalliana with Quilon. Please also see the *Syrian Christians of Kerala*, S. G. Pothan, p. 27.

3 *Malabar Manual*, Vol. I, Logan, p. 253.

4 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol I, V. Nagam Aiya, p. 244.

5 *Annathe Keralam*, pp. 134 and 140.

6 *Malabar Manual*, Logan, p. 265.

Origin of the Kollam Era

It was in the 9th century A.D. that Quilon emerged into prominence as a great political and commercial centre. The town was the capital of the Kings of Venad who were the feudatories of the Kulasekharas of Mahodayapuram (800-1102 A.D.).[1] It carried on extensive trade with China and Arabia and its port was one of the largest in the world at the time. Several writers have associated the town of Quilon (Kollam) with the origin of the Kollam Era which began in 825 A.D. It may be therefore relevant in this connection to examine the different theories regarding the origin of this Era.[2]

P. Shangoonny Menon held the view that the Kollam Era was founded by Udaya Marthanda Varma, a King of the South in 825 A.D. "In the Kali year 3926 (825 A.D.)", says Shangoonny Menon, "when King Udaya Marthanda Varma was residing in Kollam (Quilon), he convened a council of all the learned men of Kerala with the object of introducing a new era, and after making some astronomical researches and calculating the solar movements throughout the twelve signs of the zodiac, and counting scientifically the number of days occupied in this revolution in every month, it was resolved to adopt the new era from the first of Chingam of that year, 15th August 825 A.D., as Kollam year one,, and to call it the solar year."[3] Menon suggested that the system of reckoning the

1 The question whether Venad was an independent entity as argued by T. K. Velu Pillai, the author of the revised *Travancore State Manual* or only an administrative sub-division of the Kulesekhara Empire has been discussed in detail in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 114-19.

2 The Kollam Era begins in Malabar on the 1st of Kanni (middle of September) and in all other parts of Kerala, in the Madurai and Tinnevelly Districts, and in Ceylon on the 1st of Chingam (middle of August) (Vide *Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*, Part I, (1963 Edition) Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, p. 57).

3 *History of Travancore*, P. Shangoonny Menon, pp. 88-89. The statement made by Shangoonny Menon and other early writers that the 1st Chingam of the first year of the Kollam Era coincided with 15th August 825 A.D. is wrong. The correct date for the first day of Chingam of that year is actually July 25, 825. The mistake was caused by the failure on the part of the early writers to take note of the Act passed by the British Parliament in 1752 dropping 11 days while accepting the Gregorian Calendar. See *Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*, Part I, Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, pp. 66-67.

Era so inaugurated was adopted throughout Kerala and in places in the neighbourhood like Tinnevelly, Madurai, etc. He also quotes in support of his theory certain evidence from the *Mathilakam Grandhavari*. "The old records in the Trivandrum pagoda show that on the 5th Chingam of the first Kollam year i.e., five days after the promulgation of the new year, the members of the five royal houses of the Travancore family, the Swamiyar (the ecclesiastical head), and all the nobility, etc., assembled in the Trivandrum pagoda and introduced certain new rules or ordinances for the conduct of the daily, monthly and yearly performances of *pujas* and other ceremonies. These rules are still in force in the said pagoda."[1] This explanation was accepted by T. K. Velu Pillai the author of the revised *Travancore State Manual* as probably the correct one.[2] But Shangoonny Menon's theory of the origin of the Kollam Era is unacceptable for various reasons. There is no *Grandhavari* in the Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple which can be assigned to the period prior to Kollam Era 550 (1375 A.D.). Again till the 14th century A.D. there was neither a king nor a royal family at Tiruvithancode or Trivandrum. It is only in the 14th century that the Venad royal family came to have a branch of its own. In the beginning of the Kollam Era, that is, in the early 9th century A.D., Tiruvithancode, Trivandrum and other places in the south formed part of the Ay Kingdom and there was also no ruler during this period among the Venad kings who bore the name Udaya Marthanda Varma. Even assuming that a ruler by name Udaya Marthanda Varma ruled over Venad, it has to be borne in mind that he could have been only a feudatory of the Emperor of Mahodayapuram and that an Era begun by him could not have been under any circumstances accepted by people all over Kerala. It may also be noted that even among the Emperors of Mahodayapuram we do not come across a ruler by name Udaya Marthanda Varma. In fact the Kollam Era was begun during the reign of Rajasekhara Varma Kulasekhara (820-844 A.D.). Therefore the Udayamarthanda story is obviously unhistorical and

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1 *History of Travancore*, P. Shangoonny Menon, pp. 88-89. The record really belongs to the 5th Chingom of 801 K.E. (1625 A.D.) and not of the first year of the Kollam Era as stated by Shangoonny Menon (*Chila Kerala Charithra Prasnamgal* (1963 Edition p. 65).

2 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 51.

cannot offer a convincing explanation of the origin of the Kollam Era.[1]

According to another view the Kollam Era began in 825 A.D. in commemoration of the conversion of Cheraman Perumal to Islam and his pilgrimage to Mecca after partitioning the kingdom. The Cheraman legend has now been proved to be a myth and consequently the theory connecting the origin of the Kollam Era with Cheraman Perumal's alleged conversion to Islam and partitioning of the kingdom may also rightly be rejected as unconvincing.

According to Logan, the Kollam Era began on the 1st of Chingam in the Travancore-Cochin area and on the 1st of Kanni in the Malabar area in commemoration of the achievement of independence from the Perumal yoke by Venad and Kolattunad respectively on these days.[2] This view also is not correct because we know definitely that in the 9th and 10th centuries the rulers of Venad and Kolattunad were only feudatory chieftains who administered their domains in subordination to the Kulasekharas of Mahodayapuram. Several inscriptions of the period also testify to the fact that the Kulasekharas appointed the *Naduvazhis* in the different *Nadus* or administrative divisions of the Empire. The fact is that the independence of Venad, Kolattunad etc., was achieved only after the break-up of the Kulasekhara Empire early in the 11th century A.D. Hence it is untenable to say that the Kollam Era began in 825 A.D. in commemoration of the achievement of independence by Venad and Kolattunad.

Yet another explanation of the origin of the Kollam Era is based on the *Keralolpathi* narrative. In one of the versions of the *Keralolpathi*, it is stated that the Kollam Era was started by Sankaracharya in commemoration of the introduction by him of the *Anacharams*, or irregular customs of the Namboothiris. This view is based on the wrong assumption on the part of the author of the *Keralolpathi* that *Sankarasmruthi* which lays down the *Anacharams* was written by Sankara. The commonly accepted date for Sankara is 788-820 A.D., and he could

1 The origin of the Kollam Era has been discussed by Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai in "*Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*", Part I, pp. 57-82 and *Chera Samrajyam Onpathum Pathum Noottandukalil*, pp. 28-36. See also *History of Kerala*, Vol. IV, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 265-275 and *Medieval Kerala*, P. K. S. Raja, pp. 11-19.

2 *Malabar Manual*, Logan, p. 158.

not have introduced the *Anacharams* in 825 A.D. Moreover, the *Sankarasmruthi* itself is a later work. In the *Sankarasmruthi* the Namboothiris are referred to as *Jenmis* and this one piece of evidence is enough to prove that the *Sankarasmruthi* could not have been written by Sankaracharya. The ascendency of the Namboothiris and the origin of landlordism can be assigned only to the period commencing from the 12th century A.D. Hence it is clear that the *Sankarasmruthi* could have been written only after the 12th century A.D. when the Namboothiris had become powerful. For the reasons set forth above the view based on the evidence of the *Sankarasmruthi* that the Kollam Era began in commemoration of the introduction of the *Anacharams* by Sankaracharya may be rejected.

There is also a view that the Kollam Era began in the south and in the north in commemoration of the establishment of Kurakkeni Kollam and Pantalayani Kollam respectively. The words "*Kollam Tonri*" occurring in inscriptions have been interpreted to mean "Kollam came into existence." This would mean that a town by name Kollam gave its name to the era which commenced in 825 A.D. It may be pointed out that in Sanskrit, Kollam Era is called *Kolamba Varsha* and that in the 12th century A.D. Quilon was known as Kolambam as is testified to by the Tiruvambadi Inscription of 359 Kollam Era (1183). But as an explanation of the origin of the Kollam Era this view is also hardly acceptable. The many places in Kerala which end with the word 'Kollam' must have had their origin in the 8th century A.D. before the beginning of the Kollam Era. We have evidence to show that the town of Quilon in the south was not only in existence but was also in a flourishing condition even before the beginning of the Kollam Era. The same is also true of Pantalayani Kollam. It may be noted that in the 8th century A.D. the Brahmins who came to Kerala from the north named several places here after those in their original homes. To cite an example it may be mentioned that Sankaranarayana the astrologer who lived in the days of Sthanu Ravi has recorded that his native place was Kollapuri in Paithan. Quilon in the south might have been named by Brahmins after Kollapuri (Paithan) or Kolhapur. As this is likely to have taken place in the 8th century A. D. there is difficulty in assuming that the Kollam Era began in 825 A.D. in commemoration of the founding of the town of Quilon by the Brahmins who came from the north.

It is also noteworthy in this connection that Mahodayapuram and not Quilon was the most important town in Kerala during this period and it is difficult to believe that an all Kerala era was started in commemoration of the founding of the latter.

Another school of opinion connects the establishment of a Christian community at Quilon in 825 A.D. with the origin of the Kollam Era. T. A. Gopinatha Rao who formulates this theory writes as follows. "The busy traders of the foreign country began to reckon their dates from the date of their settlement in Malabar and this, in all probability, became the Kollam era or the era of the founding of the city of Kollam. This era might have been later on adopted by the people of Malabar as their own either because of the mandate of the king desiring them to adopt it or adopted by themselves on account of its usefulness. The era came into vogue with the people of Kollam and its neighbourhood one month earlier than among the Malayalis of the north Malabar,—a fact which clearly evidences two things, namely, firstly, that the era commemorated nothing religious or national; if it were based upon religion etc., the first day of the year should be the same for all Malabar; for instance, Onam, their national festival is observed by all Malayalis on the same day, as it is based upon religion. Secondly, it took the northern Malayalis nearly a month in adopting the era after the people of Kollam. The delay was perhaps due to the delay in transit of the king's order to that part of his kingdom (or of his overlord)."[1] This theory is also unconvincing. An event like the settlement of a colony of Christian traders at Quilon could never have given rise to an era universally adopted by the people in all parts of Kerala. Even if Quilon was founded and made prosperous by a community of Christian traders the people in and around the locality alone might have counted their years from the date of the event out of their gratitude to them for making their city prosperous. But it is inconceivable that the people in the other parts of the country would have done so.

There is another theory connecting the origin of the Kollam Era with Onam the annual national festival of Kerala. But this theory too, like those mentioned earlier, can hardly be sustained. It may be noted that Onam was celebrated as a national festival in Kerala and other parts of South India even

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol, II, p. 79.

in the Sangam period more than 1500 years ago.[1] It is therefore difficult to believe that the Kollam Era was started in 825 A.D., in commemoration of this festival.

Dr. Gundert, the noted Malayalam scholar, suggested that the Kollam Era must have been started in commemoration of the building of a Siva temple at Quilon. The era was not immediately adopted by people in other parts of Kerala as it was a temple era. But as Quilon grew in importance as a great emporium of trade, the new era was carried to other parts of Kerala by the merchants who carried on trade with Quilon and other parts of the land. This view is also not generally accepted. As Prof. Sundaram Pillai observes, "In the nature of things we should expect a grander event of greater national importance in justification of the starting of an Era than the building of a nameless temple."[2]

Prof. Sundaram Pillai has expressed the view that the Kollam Era was a modification of the *Saptarshi* Era or *Sastra Samvatsara* which is referred to by Albiruni (1030 A.D.), Kalhana (1148 A.D.), and the *Puranas* and was prevalent in Kashmir, Multan, Saurashtra and other places in Northern and Central India. The unique feature of this era is that it begins afresh after every hundred years. The *Saptarshi* era must have been brought to Kerala from the North by the Namboothiri immigrants. It seems that after the coming of the Namboothiris to Quilon the *Saptarshi* era began on the first of Chaitra 825 A.D. It is likely that in later years the practice of beginning the era afresh after every hundred years was given up, and the *Saptarshi* era was adjusted for local purposes. In the words of Prof. Sundaram Pillai "It would ....appear that, up to the year 99, the Kollam Year is identical with the *Saptarshi* year. May it not be then that our Kollam Year is simply the *Saptarshi* era with its origin forgotton and therefore counted on into the hundreds? It is by no means extravagant to suppose that the people who lived in the Kollam year 99 went on to name the next year 100 and not the cypher year, in spite of whatever astronomical reminiscences which survived in the minds of the almanac makers

1 *Some Aspects of Kerala and Tamil Literature*, Part II, M. Raghava Iyengar, p. 4.

2 Quoted in *History of Kerala*, Vol. IV, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 266.

of the age"[1] K. P. Padmanabha Menon thinks that there is much to recommend in Prof. Sundaram Pillai's theory. Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai also considers the view of Prof. Sundaram Pillai as more acceptable than those of others. But even here, as he points out, there is a lacuna because it is not easy to explain how the era commenced on the 1st of Chingom in the south and on the 1st of Kanni in the north. Broadly speaking Prof. Sundaram Pillai's theory of the origin of the Kollam era seems to be more rational and scientific, but it is to be pointed out that the reason for the abandonment of the traditional system of calculation and the adoption of the new system is unknown. In fact, the last word on the origin of the Kollam Era is yet to be said.

Ayyan Adikal and the Tharisappalli Copper Plates (849 A.D.)

When Venad emerged into political prominence early in the 9th century A.D., it was only an administrative division of the Kulasekhara Empire (800-1102 A.D.) and not a distinct political entity. A chronological narrative of the dynastic and political history of Venad has already been given in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer* and it is not considered necessary to cover the same ground again in this volume. We may however highlight the most important political events and cultural achievements associated with Venad which have a definite bearing on the history of the Quilon District. The first King of Venad of whose reign inscriptional evidence is available is Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal. He has immortalised himself in the famous Syrian Christian Copper Plates which were executed by him in 849 A.D. (i.e., the fifth regnal year of Emperor Sthanu Ravi) in the presence of the important officers of the State and the representatives of the *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam*.[2] The inscription reveals several interesting facts.[3] One Muruvan Sapir Iso had erected a church named Therisa Palli at Kurakkeni Kollam and Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal made a gift of a plot of land to this church along with

1 Quoted in *History of Kerala*, Vol. IV, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 271.

2 *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam* were two merchant guilds.

3 For a detailed study of the Tharisapalli Copper Plates see *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, pp. 61-85 and *Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*, Part II, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, pp. 115-132.

a number of families consisting of Ezhavas, Ezhakayyars[1] and Vannans, remitting all taxes due from them. The taxes which the families made over to the church were exempted from were *Talaikkanam,*[2] *Enikkanam,*[3] taxes payable for renewing the thatchings of houses, the *Menippon*[4] from the Sanrars, the *Polippon,*[5] the *Iravuchoru,*[6] and the *Kuda-nazhi.*[7] The Ezhavas of the families gifted to the church were allowed to take their carts to the markets and within the precincts of the fort and carry on their trade. A similar permission was granted to the Vannans (washermen) also. Neither the dignitaries like *Thiyamazhavan* (the chief police officer) and *Mathilnayakan* (the duty officer of the fort) nor any others were to find fault with any of these people. All complaints against them were to be settled solely by the church. Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal made over these *Vidiperus*[8] to the Therisa

1 T. A. Gopinatha Rao did not understand the meaning of the term *Kayyar* when he explained *Ezhakayyar* as the feminine of Ezhavas – (*Travavncore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II p. 63) . The term *Kayyar* means workers. Hence *Ezhakayyar* only means workers engaged in toddy-tapping. It may be noted here that till the 12th century the term "Ezhava" did not denote any caste name. It was used only in an occupational sense with reference to those who tapped and sold toddy. For details see *Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*, Part II, Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, p. 119.

2 *Talaikkanam* was a kind of profession tax on those engaged in toddy trade. *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64. It may mean poll tax.

3 *Enikkanam* was a tax imposed on the ladders used in climbing trees. *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64.

4 According to Gopinatha Rao *Menippon* is the poll tax levied from the Sanrar or Shanar caste which is the same as the Ezhavar or Thiyyar (*Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64). Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai suggests that it was a tax levied from the respectable classes for the privilege of wearing gold ornaments (*Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal*, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, p. 120).

5 *Polippon* may be the tax imposed on heaps of paddy, pepper, etc. (*Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64). Perhaps, it was a kind of sales tax.

6 Certain classes of servants were fed at night and this right of being fed is referred to by the term *"Iravuchoru"*. (*Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64).

7 *The Kuda-nazhi* is interpreted to mean the custom of a nazhi of liquor being taken by the authorities from each potful of it. (*Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 64).

8 The privileges surrendered are known as *Vidipperus*.

Church as an *Attipperu*[1] to last so long as the earth, the sun and the moon last.

In another inscription of the same year further concessions were granted by the same ruler to the Therisa church. It was given the gift of some additional families of professional men like carpenters (tachar), tillers (vellalur) etc. No poll tax was to be levied by the authorities on the slaves kept by the churchmen. The churmen might collect 8 *Kasus* (a kind of coin) as excise duty and 4 *Kasus* as customs duty on merchandise brought into and taken out of the jurisdiction of the church. The customs duty on all dutiable articles was to be levied only in their presence and with their co-operation. Customs collected everyday were to be taken care of by the members of the *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam*. On auspicious occasions like marriage etc., the church authorities were to enjoy the 72 *Viduperus* such as carrying of earth and water required for the ceremonies on elephants. All these rights were granted in perpetuity to the church of Therisa by Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal and heir-apparent Ramar Thiruvati after due consultation with *Kovil Adhikarikal,* Vijaya Raga Deva, the *Prakriti* (subjects) and the '*Arunoottuvar*'. The members of the *Arunoottuvar* (Six Hundred) and the *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam* were enjoined to do everything in their power for the good of the church and its land in accordance with the conditions laid down in the document.

The Therisapalli Copper Plates are of inestimable historical value. The document is the first epigraphical record of Kerala the date of which can be determined with any degree of accuracy. The Copper Plates throw interesting light on the prevailing form of political organisation. It is proved beyond doubt that Ayyan Adikal was not a ruler with independent status but only a feudatory of Emperor Sthanu Ravi. From the presence of Vijayaragadeva, the *Koviladhikarikal* at the time of execution of the grant, it is clear that *Naduvazhis* like the rulers of Venad did not enjoy full sovereign rights.[2] The

1 The act of making an absolute gift for all time to come is known as *Attipperu*. In this context it means that the donee is to be the absolute donor of the object given and he has rights of gift, sale, mortgage, etc.

2 The *Koviviladhikarikal* was the representative of the Emperor of Mahodayapuram. He was mainly in charge of the administration of temples, and also exercised a sort of general control over the *Naduvazhis*.

record also shows that Quilon was at that time a place of great commercial importance. It is in the Therisapalli Copper Plates that we find the first reference to merchant guilds like *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam* which played an important part in the economic life of all major towns in ancient Kerala. The town assembly of the *Arunoottuvar* (Six Hundred) and the merchant guilds of *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam* exercised immense authority over the political and economic affairs of Quilon. The responsibility for the defence and security of Quilon was vested in these bodies. We also get from the Therisapalli Copper Plates interesting information about the system of taxation that prevailed in Venad during this period. Such taxes as *Talaikanam, Enikanam, Menippon, Polippon, Kvda-nazhi* etc., are referred to in the document. These references testify to the fact that Venad in those days had its own profession tax, sales tax, vehicle tax and customs and excise duties. A tax was levied by the ruler also from persons who aspired for the privilege of wearing ornaments. It also seems that slave trade was common in those days and that the *Naduvazhi* (ruler) had the power to sell criminals as slaves. Those who kept slaves had, however, to pay a certain tax to the ruler. The Therisapalli Copper Plates also bear testimony to the spirit of religious toleration and catholicity of outlook which characterised the rulers of Kerala. The Christians were treated on the same footing of equality with Hindus and assigned a very important place in the economic and social life of Quilon.

Sulaiman's Visit to Quilon

Perhaps it was during the period of Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal that the Arab merchant Sulaiman visited Kerala (851 A.D.)[1] Sulaiman has observed that Quilon was at that time the only port in India touched by huge Chinese ships on their home-ward voyage from Persia. At Quilon the Chinese ships paid a heavy port duty of 1,000 *Dinars* and it was the chief port of call between China and Western India. The Chinese ships, though huge in size, were flat-bottomed and could therefore easily cross the bar at Quilon and enter the fine harbour. Quilon was according to Sulaiman "the most considerable port in South India at the time."

1 There is also a view that Sulaiman did not actually visit Kerala and that his account of the country was written on the basis of information gathered by him from other sources.

Sri Vallabhan Kothai and Mamballi Plates of 149 K. E.

After Ayyan Adikal Thiruvatikal we know nothing about the history of Venad for about a century. In 149 Kollam Era (974 A.D.) Sri Vallabhan Kothai was ruling at Quilon as is proved by the evidence of the Mamballi Plate dated Kollam Era 149.[1] The Mamballi Plate is an important document.[2] It is incised in *Vattezhuthu* characters with a few *Grandha* letters like *Swasti Sri*, *Sri*, *Rakshi* and *Raksha*. The object of the record is to register the fact that Adichan Umayamma placed the temple of Ayirur and its landed property as a *Kizhidu* to the temple of Tiruchengunrur. It was Chathan Chadayan, the *Poduval* (Secretary) of the Tiruchengunrur temple *Sabha*, who received the Ayirur temple and its properties from Umayamma. The deed was affected at the Panamkavil palace in Quilon on the 15th day of the month of Vrischikam 149 Kollam Era (9th November, 973 A.D.) and in the assembly of the great men of Tiruchengunrur, King Sri Vallabhan Kothai also being present in it.

The Mamballi Plate is important in more ways than one. Not only is it the first record dated in the Kollam Era but it is also the first inscription in which the Panamkavil Palace of the Venad Kings is specifically referred to. The record has also been helpful in determining the dates of Bhaskara Ravi, Indukota, etc., who ruled at Mahodayapuram in the 10th century A.D. It throws light on the arrangements made for the administration of temples in Kerala during this period We know from the record that the administraton of the temple was in the hands of a council of *Uraler* and *Sabha* and that the day to day affairs were attended to by a Secretary called *Poduval* elected by the *Sabha*. It was the *Poduval* who accepted gifts and donations on behalf of the temple. Thus the Mamballi Plate of Sri Vallabhan Kothai has proved itself to be one of the most important documents in the annals of Kerala epigraphy.

1 The Trikkodithanam Inscription of the 14th year of Bhaskara Ravi Varman I (962-1019) shows that Vallabhan Kothai's reign must have commenced even earlier. (*Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. V, p. 188).

2 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. IV, pp. 1-16. The Inscription is now being preserved in the padmanabhapuram Palace.

Govardhana Marthanda

The next Venad ruler according to inscriptions was Govardhana Marthanda. He must have ascended the throne about 151 Kollam Era (976 A.D.) and he seems to have ruled until the close of the century. The Trikkodithanam Inscription No. 1 dated the 14th regnal year (976 A.D.) of the reign of Bhaskara Ravi Varman records that Govardhana Marthanda granted some taxes to the temple at Trikkodithanam.[1] It is also stated that Govardhana Marthanda who was the ruler of Venad was given administrative control over Nanrulainadu also. This Venad ruler was evidently a vassal of the king Bhaskara Ravi Varman and has also figured as a signatory in the Jewish Copper Plate of 1000 A.D.

Quilon during the Chola-Chera-War.

The 11th century saw what has been called the "Hundred Years" war between the Kulasekharas of Mahodayapuram and the Imperial Cholas.[2] In this war Venad which had its capital at Quilon was a province of considerable strategic importance to the Emperors of Mahodayapuram. It was the southernmost province of the Kulasekhara Empire and was therefore most vulnerable to Chola invasions from Nanjanad. Hence the Kulasekharas bestowed particular attention on strengthening the defences on the southern frontier of the Empire. Quilon thus became one of the most important military outposts of the Kulasekharas in the South. Quilon had its vicissitudes of fortune during the long period of the Chola-Chera war of the 11th century A.D. During the reign of Bhaskara Ravi Varman I (962-1019 A.D.), Rajaraja the Great (985-1014 A.D.) invaded Kandalur, Vizhinjam and Quilon and established his supremacy over South Travancore. It is however doubtful whether the town of Quilon or any part of the Quilon District came under the imperial sway of the Cholas during the reign of Rajaraja. It is significant that no inscriptions of Rajaraja the Great are found in the Trivandrum and Quilon Districts or in any locality further north.

Rajaraja's son and successor, Rajendra Chola (1014-1044), followed an aggressive and forward policy towards Kerala. He conquered the whole region south of Trivandrum and

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. V, p. 176.

2 A detailed account of the war can be had from the *Trivandrum* and *Trichur District Gazetteers*.

defeated the Chera army at Quilon and Mahodayapuram. According to the Manimangalam Inscription (1046 A.D.) the next Chola ruler Rajadhiraja (1044-1054 A.D.) killed the king of Venad and sacked Kandalur Salai.[1] A Kanyakumari Inscription of Rajadhiraja also refers to the fact that he liberated the King of the Kupaka country.[2] Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri regards the King of the Kupakas as a local chieftain of South Travancore who lived in bondage to the Venad ruler.[3] This view is not correct because the Kupaka country was the same as Venad with its Capital at Quilon and as such it formed part of the big Chera empire. The Kanyakumari Inscription seems to refer only to the success of the Cholas in weaning the Venad ruler away from allegiance to the Cheras and thus confirm the fact of Chola domination over a large part of Kerala during the period 1028-1044.[4]

By the time of Kulothunga Chola (1070-1118 A.D.) several parts of the Chera country had thrown off the Chola yoke and achieved independence. Kulottunga was determined to re-establish the imperial power and prestige of the Cholas. The Chola-Chera struggle entered a decisive phase when Kulottunga marched into South Kerala at the head of a large army. He conquered Nanjanad and all the territories in the south up to Trivandrum. Encouraged by his successes he proceeded further north and even attacked Quilon. The Chera Emperor of Mahodayapuram during this period was Rama Varma Kulasekhara (1090-1102 A.D.). An inscription dated 278 Kollam Era (1102 A.D.) engraved on a pillar set up at the Rameswarathukoil in Quilon shows one Ramar Thiruvati as staying in the palace of Panamkavil at Quilon during the year.[5] The Ramar Thiruvati of the Rameswarathukoil inscription has been identified with Emperor Rama Varma Kulasekhara[6]. It may not be wrong in inferring that at a critical phase of the Chola-Chera War when Mahodayapuram was destroyed by the enemy Ramavarma Kulasekhara shifted his

1 *Historical Inscriptions of South India*, Sewell, p. 71.

2 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. I, p. 242.

3 *Colas*, Vol. I, Nilakanta Sastri, p. 270.

4 During the reign of Chera Emperor Rajasimha (1028-1043) the major part of Kerala including the South was under Chola military yoke.

5 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. V, p. 44.

6 *Kerala Charitrathile Iruladanja Edukal*, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, (1963 Edition) p. 125.

capital to Quilon and made a determined effort to drive the Chola army away from the South. With the arrival of Rama Varma Kulasekhara at Quilon the Chola army sustained a series of defeats and retreated to Kottar.[1] The withdrawal of the Chola army to Kottar symbolised the end of the Chola-Chera conflict and the final liberation of Kerala from the Chola yoke. This did not, however, mean the restoration of the Kulasekharas to their old imperial glory. The Kulasekharas had by now lost their imperial status and the various provinces of their empire asserted their independence.

Rise of Independent Venad

Out of the travails of the Chola-Chera war of the 11th century A.D. independent Venad was born. Rama Varma Kulasekhara who moved his headquarters from Mahodayapuram to Quilon in 1102 A.D. may be regarded as the real founder of the Venad royal house. Since his days the Venad kings enjoyed a truly imperial status. Quilon is hereafter found referred to in some inscriptions as *"Tenvanchi"* and the Venad ruler as *"Tenvanchiyan"*.[2] Rama Varma Kulasekhara who founded independent Venad managed the affairs of the kingdom for some time. This fact is proved by the Rameswarathu Koil Inscription of Quilon dated Kollam Era 278 (1102 A.D.) We have however no information about the later career of Rama Varma Kulasekhara. Perhaps, he abdicated the throne in favour of his son Vira Kerala. The tradition current on the West Coast that the last of the Cheraman Perumals bestowed on his son Vira Kerala the southern-most part of his empire lying between Quilon and Cape-Comorin may have some relevance in this context.[3]

It may also be pointed out in this connection that the reign of Rama Varma Kulasekhara represents the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Kerala. The Rameswarathu-koil inscription referred to earlier shows that the Brahmins made the king give certain grants of land to the temple as

1 The details of Kulottunga's defeat at the hands of the Cheras and his retreat to Kottar can be had from the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer.*

2 The Travancore royal family claims descent from the Venad branch of the Chera royal house which ruled with its capital at Quilon since 1102. It is significant that the faimly called itself *"Vanchi Rajavamsom"* and the king of Travancore *"Vanchipala"*, the ruler of Vanchi.

3 Rev. Samuel Mateer writing in 1871 has recorded the prevalence of this tradition in Travancore. Vide *Land of Charity*, Mateer, p. 14.

an atonement or *prayaschitta* for the sin of offending them. This seems to be the first instance of a Kerala king being compelled by the Namboothiris or the Brahmin clergy to act according to their wishes. The incident may therefore be regarded as heralding the dawn of what has been called "the Namboothiri Age" in Kerala history.

Rulers of Venad from 1102 to 1253

Vira Kerala the successor of Rama Varma Kulasekhara ruled till 1140 A.D. He conquered Kottar and the neighbouring portions of Nanjanad from the Pandyas and incorporated them into the Kingdom of Venad. During his reign Venad became a well-organised kingdom with an efficient government. Under Kotha Kerala Varma (1140-1155 A.D.), Vira Ravi Varma (1155-1165 A.D.) and Aditya Varma (1165-1175 A.D.) Venad developed into an important power in the South, and Nanjanad remained under the sway of the Venad kings. Under Udaya Marthanda Varma (1175-1195 A.D.) there was intimate relationship between the Pandyan kings and the Venad royal house and his daughter Tribhuvana Devi was married to the Pandyan King Sri Vallabha. During the reign of Vira Rama Varma (1195-1205 A.D.) and Vira Rama Kerala Varma (1205-1215 A.D.) special attention was bestowed on the construction of temples and their proper management and maintenance. This fact is testified to by the inscriptions of this period. The next Venad king was Ravi Kerala Varma (1215-1240 A.D.) who is mentioned in the Kandiyur inscription dated 393 Kollam Era (1218 A.D.)[1], and in the Manalikara inscription dated 411 Kollam Era (1236 A.D.)[2]. The former inscription states that Rama Kotha Varma, the ruler of Odanad (Kayamkulam) rebuilt the temple of Siva at Kandiyur on the suggestion of Unniachi, the famous queen of Ravi Kerala Varma. On the basis of the evidence of the same inscription it is inferred that Odanad had accepted the authority of Venad in some form or other during this pereiod. The latter inscription which seeks to fix the amount of tax to be paid on the lands in the possession of the tenants and also to make some remission of taxes to them in case of failure of crops shows the great interest evinced by the ruler in the administration of the kingdom. Vira Kerala also took special interest in the Suchindram and Padmanabhaswami Temples. His queen Unniachi (Kandiyur Unni) was responsible for the construction of the Subramonia Swami Koil, the earliest of the shrines

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. I, pp. 289-290.
2 *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 59.

that arose outside the main Suchindram Temple.[1] It was since the days of Vira Kerala Varma that the Namboothiris (Malayali Brahmins) came to be appointed to attend to *Poojas* in the temples of Nanjanad. This ruler also appointed the *Swamiyar* of Trivandrum temple to look after its management. The next ruler of Venad was Padmanabha Marthanda Varma (1240-1253 A.D.) who was a contemporary of Jatavarman Sundara Pandya (1251-1268 A.D.) the famous warrior king under whom the Pandyan power attained its greatest splendour. He might be the king who is said to have been killed by Vikrama Pandya who died in 1264 A.D.

Jayasimha

The period from 1253 to 1299 is a confused period in the history of Venad. We have no authentic records to reconstruct the complete history of this period. The records of Jatavarman Sundara Pandya (1251-1268) and Mara Varman Kulasekhara (1268-1310) however show that the Pandyas had during this period established their hegemony over this region. Early in his reign Mara Varman Kulasekhara led an expedition against Venad and one of the chief incidents in the campaign seems to have been the capture of Kollam (Quilon). The records of this king obtained from Tirunelveli District give him the titles *"Cheranai-Venra"* and *"Kollam Konda"*.[2] The only conspicuous ruler of Venad during this confused period was Jayasimha who seems to have been a good warrior. The country around Quilon was till recently called Jayasimhanad or Desinganad after Jayasimha. On the death of Jayasimha there was a dispute for the throne among his sons and nephews. Ravi Varma Kulasekhara who was Jayasimha's son by his consort Uma Devi got the upper hand in the struggle for power and ascended the throne. It may be mentioned here that Ravi Varma Kulasekhara was the last of the Venad kings who succeeded to the throne according to patrilineal system of inheritance or *Makkathayam*. After his reign Jayasimha's nephew Udaya Marthanda Varma became king of Venad and thus commenced the *Marumakkthayam* system.[3]

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1 *Sucindram Temple*, Dr. K. K. Pillai, p. 124.

2 *The Pandyan Kingdom*, K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, p. 183.

3 The view that Jayasimha was a Koil Thampuran and Umadevi a Venad Princess and that their son Ravi Varma Kulasekhara succeeded to the throne according to the matrilineal system has been discussed in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*.

Administration and Life in Early Venad

The epigraphical records of the period give us interesting glimpses into the state of administration and life in early Venad. The Government was a monarchy, but the ruler was not an autocrat who ruled according to his will and pleasure. His authority was limited by popular assemblies called *Kuttams* which functioned vigorously at all levels. Venad had its assembly called *Munnuttuvar* (Three Hundred) in the 10th century and *Arunoottuvar* (Six Hundred) in the 12th century and the king carried on the administration of the kingdom in accordance with its wishes. For administrative purposes the kingdom was sub-divided into *Desams*. Inscriptions of the period refer to the existence of various revenue officers under the king. They were entrusted with the collection of the land tax and maintained proper accounts for the same. There was a special officer who always accompanied the king for taking down his oral orders and transmitting them to the officials. The state got enormous revenue from custom duties. There were also other important sources of revenue for the state such as sales tax, vehicle tax, profession tax, etc. The merchant guilds like *Anchuvannam* and *Manigramam* which played an important part till the 12th century gradually declined in importance and disappeared after the 13th century.

In the religious field we find the progress of the Hindu religion. The rulers of Venad were staunch Hindus and they bestowed particular attention on the upkeep of the temples of the land. The temples were richly endowed both by the rulers and the common people. Elaborate rules and regulations had been laid down for the proper management of temples. A Committee called *Sabha* looked after the affairs of each temple, but the day to day affairs were attended to by the *Poduval* or secretary appointed by the *Sabha*. The temple was not merely a place of worship, but it was also a centre of learning and education. A Vedic School or college seems to have been attached to each temple. An inscription of the 12th or the 13th century found engraved in the Manikanteswara temple at Kottarakara makes mention of the *salai* attached to it and also of certain restrictions and privileges in regard to admission to this *salai*.

In spite of the fact that Hinduism was the predominant religion of the land Venad was singularly free from religious

rancour of any kind. The Venad kings followed an enlightened policy of religious toleration. Peoples of all communities and creeds lived together as good neighbours. Quilon was a great cosmopolitan city where churches and temples flourished side by side. But from the 11th to the 13th centuries we also find the increasing dominance of the upper castes in Quilon District as in other parts of Kerala. Nevertheless the overall picture that we get of early Venad is one of liberal administration, material prosperity and religious amity.

Foreign Notices of Quilon

Quilon reached the height of its commercial prosperity and political prominence under the enlightened rulers of Venad and its fame attracted many a foreign traveller to the place. We get interesting information about Quilon, the city and its people, from the writings of these foreign travellers. We have already referred to the observations of Sulaiman (851) about Quilon. Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela who travelled in the East between 1159 and 1173 A. D. is the next important foreign traveller who gives us an interesting account of Quilon. It may however be mentioned in this connection that there is a view that Banjamin did not actually visit Quilon in the course of his travels in the East and that his account of the city is based on second hand information obtained by him from other sources. Nevertheless, the observations of Benjamin are interesting and they are therefore given here. "Seven days from thence is Chulam (Collam) on the confines of the country of the Sun-worshippers. They are descendants of Kush, are addicted to astrology, and are all black. This nation is very trustworthy, in the matters of trade, and whenever foreign merchants enter their port, three Secretaries of the king immediately repair on board their vessels, write down their names and report them to him. The king thereupon grants them security for their property, which they may even leave in the open fields without any guard. One of the king's officers sits in the market and receives goods that may have been found anywhere, and which he returns to those applicants who can minutely describe them. This custom is observed in the whole Empire of the king. From Easter to New year (April to October), during the whole of the summer, the heat is extreme. From the third hour of the day (9 in the morning), people shut themselves up in their houses until the evening, at which time

every body goes out. The streets and markets are lighted up and the inhabitants employ all the night upon their business, which they are prevented from doing in the day time in consequence of the excessive heat. The pepper grows in this country; the trees which bear this fruit are planted in the fields, which surround the town, and every one knows his plantation. The trees are small and pepper is originally white but when they collect it, they put it into basins and pour hot water upon it; it is then exposed to heat of the sun and dried in order to make it hard and more substantial, in the course of which process it becomes black in colour. Cinnamon, ginger and many other kinds of spices also grow in this country. The inhabitants do not bury their dead, but embalm them with certain spices, put them upon stools, and cover them with cloths, every family keeping apart. The flesh dries upon the bones and as these corpses resemble living beings, every one of them recognises his parents and all the members of his family for many years to come. These people worship the sun; about half a mile from every town, they have large places of worship, and every morning they run towards the rising sun. Every place of worship contains a representation of that luminary, so constructed by machinery (our author calls it witchcraft) that upon the rising of the sun, it turns round with a great noise, at which moment both men and women take up their censers, and burn incense in honour of the diety. 'This their way of folly'. All the cities and countries inhabited by the people contain about 100 Jews, who are of black-colour as well as the other inhabitants. The Jews are good men, observers of the law and possess the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and some little knowledge of the Thalmud and its decisions."[1]

Al Kazwini (1263-1275 A.D.), a Muhammaden geographer who compiled his account of India from the works of others, describes Kulam (Quilon) as "a large city in India". He has recorded the following information obtained by him about Quilon. "Mis'arbin Muhalhil, who visited the place, says that he did not see either a temple or an idol there. When their

1. *History of Kerala*, Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 274-275. It may be pointed out that some of the characteristics and customs of the people of Malabar as described by Benjamin are unknown to Malabar and indeed dubstantiate the view that Benjamin did not actually visit this coast. The references to embalming the dead and worship of the Sun may be cited as instances in point.

king dies, the people of the place choose another from China.[1] There is no physician in India except in this City. The buildings are curious, for the pillars are (covered) with shells from the backs of fishes. The inhabitants do not eat fish, nor do they slaughter animals, but they eat carrion", [2]. He proceeds to describe the pottery made there and contrasts it with Chinaware. "There are places here where the teak tree grows to a very great height exceeding even one hundred cubits".

Marco Polo, the celebrated Venetian traveller, visited Quilon and other places in Kerala towards the end of the 13th century and he gives us interesting details of the country, its people and its natural resources. Marco Polo had gone to the court of Kublai Khan in 1275 A.D. and risen high in Chinese service. He subsequently visited Quilon and other places as a diplomatic representative of Kublai Khan. Of the kingdom of Quilon (Coilum) he says "When you quit Malabar and go 500 miles towards the south-west you come to the kingdom of Coilum. The people are Idolaters, but there are also some Christians and some Jews. The natives have a language of their own, and a king of their own, and are tributary to no one. A great deal of brazil is got here, which is called *brazil Coilumin* from the country which produces it; it is of very fine quality. Good ginger also grows here, and it is known by the same name of Coilumin after the country. Pepper too grows in great abundance throughout this country and I will tell you how. You must know that the pepper-trees are (not wild but) cultivated, being regularly planted and watered; and the pepper is gathered in the months of May,

1 The reference made here to the practice of the people of Quilon choosing their king from China is not clear. Evidently there was no such custom as far as the local people were concerned. Perhaps the reference made here is to the custom of the Chinese merchants who had set up their colony at Quilon selecting their leader and sending him to China for the purpose of securing privileges from the Chinese Emperor. See *Chera Samrajyam Ompathum Pathum Noottandukalil*, Prof. Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai, p. 51.

2 *History of Kerala* Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 276-77.

June and July.[1] They have also abundance of very fine indigo. This is made of a certain herb which is gathered, and (after the roots have been removed) is put into great vessels upon which they pour water and then leave it till the whole of the plant is decomposed. They then put this liquid in the sun, which is tremendously hot here, so that it boils and coagulates, and becomes such as we see it. The merchants from Manzi (China), and from Arabia, and from the Levant come thither with their ships and their merchandise and make great profits both by what they import and by what they export. There are in this country many and diverse beasts quite different from those of other parts of the world. Thus there are lions black all over, with no mixture of any other colour; and there are parrots of many sorts, for some are white as snow with red beak and feet, and some are red green ones too. There are also some parrots of exceeding small size, beautiful creatures. They have also very beautiful peacocks larger than ours, and different and they have cocks and hens quite different from ours; and what more shall I say. In short, everything they have is different from ours, and finer and better ...... Corn they have none but rice. So also their wine they make from (palm) sugar; capital drink it is and very speedily it makes a man drunk. All other necessaries of man's life they have in great plenty and cheapness. They have very good astrologers and physicians. Man and woman—they are all black and go naked, all save a fine cloth worn about the middle. They look not on any sin of the flesh as a sin. They marry their cousins german, and a man takes his brother's wife after the brother's death; and all the people of India have this custom."[2]

It may be noted that the Chinese trade with Quilon to which Marco Polo draws our attention had begun a few centuries earlier, for we have the testimony of Ma Huan that Quilon was known to the Chinese navigators of the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.). But in the face of keen competition

1 Marco Polo's observations on the pepper trade between Quilon and China deserve special notice. He estimates that Kuisay, the largest city in China at this time, alone consumed 43 loads of pepper everyday, each load weighing about 200 lbs. He also says that the merchants paid 40 per cent of the cost price as freightage duty and that even after that they got enormous profit from the pepper trade.

2 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. I, V. Nagam Aiya, p. 269.

from the Arabs this trade was languishing. After the visit of Marco Polo to Quilon this trade received a new spurt. According to Yule, "Kublai Khan" had a good deal of diplomatic intercourse of his usual kind with Kaulam (Quilon). De Mailla mentions the arrival at I' Swanchan (or Zayton, the chief port of China at the time) in 1282 of envoys from Kiulam, an Indian State, bringing presents of various rarities including a black ape as large as a man. The emperor had three times sent thither an officer called Yang-Ting-pi." The reference here is perhaps to the despatch of an embassy to China by a king of Venad.

John of Monte Corvino, the first Roman Catholic Missionary to China and the first Archbishop of Peking, touched Quilon on his way to China towards the end of the 13th century. He has recorded that at the time of his visit the Chinese, Christian and Jewish traders of Quilon were being gradually ousted from their position of commercial prominence by the Muslims who had begun to settle there in large numbers.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Ravi Varma Kulasekhara (1299-1313)

The medieval period in the history of the District may be said to have commenced with the accession of Ravi Varma Kulasekhara to the throne of Venad in 474 Kollam Era (1299 A.D.).[1] Ravi Varma Kulasekhara was a great conqueror. He is called *Samgramadhira*— firm in battle. He conquered some portions of South India and raised Venad to the position of being a powerful military state in the south. It was the distracted political condition of South India following Malik Kafir's invasion (1311 A.D.) that gave Ravi Varma

1 The controversy regarding the date of accession of Ravi Varma has been discussed in detail in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 141-42.

Kulasekhara his opportunity.[1] On the return of Malik Kafir to Delhi in 1311 after his campaigns in the south, the civil war which had broken out in the Pandyan Kingdom between Sundara Pandya and Vira Pandya, the two sons of Mara Varman Kulasekhara, took a new turn. Ravi Varma took advantage of the prevailing confusion and invaded the Pandya country. He won many victories and established his authority over all the domains which were under the Pandyas from the days of Jatavarman Sundara Pandya. He then continued his

1 It may be relevant in this connection to refer to a historical inaccuracy which has crept into *A History of South India* by K. A. Nilakanta Sastri (p. 221) and some of the later publications like the *Madurai District Gazetteer* by Dr. B. S. Baliga (p. 39). It is stated in these publications that during Malik Kafir's invasion of South India, Vikrama Pandya, Sundara's uncle, came out of his retirement to lead the Pandyas against the Muslims and inflicted a decisive defeat on them. The fact is that neither Wassaf nor Khusru nor Barani refers to a Vikrama Pandya as figuring in this episode. It seems that the statement in *A History of South India* has for its authority Dr. Venkataramanayya's *Early Muslim Expansion in South India* (pp. 65-67) wherein the Vikrama Pandya referred to in the *Lilatilakam* is assigned by the author to the period of Malik Kafir's invasion. Vikrama Pandya referred to in the *Lilatilakam* ruled in the early part of the 15th century and he is not Maravarman Kulasekhara's brother of the same name whose inscriptions are found only till 1295-1296. (Vide *The Pandyan Kingdom* pp. 189 and 248). One of the verses in the *Lilatilakam* makes it clear that Vikrama Pandya defeated the Muslims when he was very young. This must be about 1365-70. In another verse Ravi Varma, a Venad prince, is referred to as defeating Vikrama Pandya and marrying his daughter. This must be about 1386. At this time Vikrama Pandya was not the ruling sovereign. Some local Malayalam Pandits of Kerala unaware of the intervening interval of about 20 years between the two incidents referred to in the verse corrected the original word *Pandya Yuva* as *Pandya Nrupa* in order to reconcile the apparent discrepancy in the young prince having a daughter of marriageable age. Vikrama Pandya, brother of Maravarman Kulasekhara, could not have fought with the Muslims when he was young. Please see the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, (p. 152) and *Unnuneelisandesam Charitradrishtiyiloode* (pp. 27-28), Prof. Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai (1963 Edition).

march in triumph northwards up to Kanchipuram.[1] The South Indian campaigns of Ravi Varma Kulasekhara show him in the role of the defender of Hinduism in the south against the Muslims. He had a clear perception of the danger to Hinduism arising from the advance of Islam and he seems to have been making an earnest attempt to stem the rising tide of Islamic advance by bringing the whole of South India under his imperial hegemony. In this he anticipated the Hoysala Bellalas and the Rayas of Vijayanagar by several decades.

Ravi Varma Kulasekhara was a great ruler and his reign was the brightest period in the medieval history of Venad. Under him Quilon retained its old commercial glory and developed into the most important port on the West Coast. Hundreds of ships from foreign countries including China called at this port. Its wharves were replete with goods of all kinds and its markets, the finest in India, over-flowed with merchandise, grains, fish, drugs and manufactured goods of every description. Fine varieties of cloth and silk were bought and sold here in abundance. The town possessed several imposing buildings which added to its grandeur. The amenities enjoyed by the citizens of Quilon were in no way less impressive than those of any of the other cities of India during this or succeeding periods.[2]. The town was improved by Ravi Varma in all possible ways. The inscriptions of the period refer to the Main Road (*Naraya Peruvazhi*) and other broad roads which connected Quilon with the other parts of the country. Ravi Varma is called in inscriptions and literary works "*Kolambanagara Parishkaraka*".

1 A point which has not been made clear in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer* may be stated in this connection. According to the Thiruvati inscription Ravi Varma reached there on 29th December 1313 (4th Makaram 489 K. E.) He must have reached Kanchi after a week, i.e., early in 1314 which is also the 4th regnal year. As he was born in August 1266 he was 47 1/2 years old at this time. The coronation of Ravi Varma is said to have taken place when he was 46 years old. This must be in 1312, and should have taken place at Madurai and not at Kanchipuram. For details refer to *Unnuneelisandesam Charithradrishtiyiloode*, p. 52, Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai (1963 edition).

2 It may be mentioned here that the City of Quilon rose to such heights of eminence both in external glamour and political importance that there arose in course of time even a proverb in Malayalam that he who has seen Quilon cares not for his house (*Kollam Kandavanillam Venda*).

Ravi Varma took great interest in the renovation of temples and the regeneration of the Hindu religion. His kingdom was a haven of peace to the followers of different forms of religious faith. Scholars and men of letters came to his court from far and near and received his munificent patronage. The most important of the scholars patronised by him were Samudrabandha and Kavibhooshana. Ravi Varma is himself credited with the authorship of the Sanskrit drama *"Pradyumnabhyudayam"*. In his Trivandrum Inscription he is called "the master of the 64 arts (*Kalas*) and the Bhoja of the south." Under such a cultured and enlightened monarch, Quilon attained fame as the most splendid court of the age. In short, his vast and varied accomplishments make Ravi Varma Kulasekhara one of the most illustrious kings in the history of South India.

The Rise of the Elayadathu Swarupam

Before we proceed with our narrative of the dynastic history of Venad we may trace the circumstances leading to the rise of the Elayadathuswarupam as an offshoot of the Venad royal family in the 14th century. It may be stated at the outset that up to the beginning of the 12th century Venad was only a petty principality lying between Quilon and Trivandrum and its rulers were subordinate to the rulers of Mahodayapuram. Early in the 12th century Venad became an independent kingdom. It was at this time ruled by the Kizhperur family.[1] In the latter half of the 12th century a branch of the Yadava family of the Ays who had their residence at Trippappur and another Yadava family (Chiravai) which had its residence at Athanthuruthi merged in the Venad family. After this the ruler of Venad came to be called Chiravai Mooppan and the heir-apparent (*Elaya Raja*) was called Trippappur Mooppan. The latter was the *Koviladhikarikal* and as such exercised sway over the Padmanabhaswami Temple and other temples of Venad. Some writers have represented Chiravai Mooppan and Trippappur Mooppan as members of two distinct branches of the Venad family. But this view has been questioned by Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai. It is suggested that Chiravai Mooppan and Trippappur Mooppan indicate two titles rather than the existence of two separate branches of the Venad family.[2] The Chiravai

1 Kizhperur is about 2½ miles from Kilimanur.

2 *'Chila Keralacharitra Prasnamgal'* by Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, Part I, p. 62.

Mooppan used to reside at the Panamkavil Palace at Quilon which was the traditional capital of the Venad kings while the Trippappur Mooppan stayed at the Trippappur palace in order to attend to the affairs of the Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple. This was the position since the 12th century A. D. But in the 14th century the Venad family came to have a distinctive branch of its own, namely, the Kunnummel branch or Elayadathu Swarupam. The Venad kingdom which at that time embraced about 2000 sq. miles of territory came to be divided almost equally between the original Venad family and Elayadathu Swarupam. The coastal region from Kannetti to Trivandrum and the territories to the south of the latter constituted the Venad kingdom. All the territories to the north of Trivandrum with the exception of the coastal areas mentioned above formed part of the Elayadathuswarupam. The Elayadathuswarupam established its headquarters at Kunnummel near Kilimanur for some time and later after partitioning the kingdom set up permanent residence at Kottarakara. The Venad branch continued to have its headquarters at the Panamkavil Palace in Quilon. Both Venad and Elayadathuswarupam were in later years divided into two branches each. In the first half of the 15th century the Trippappur Mooppan built a palace at Tiruvithancode and set up residence there. He continued to stay at Tiruvithancode till the construction of the Darpakulangara Palace at Kalkulam in the latter half of the 16th century. In course of time that branch of the royal family which resided at Kalkulam (Padmanabhapuram) came to be associated with the Trippappur Swarupam while the Quilon branch came to be associated with the Chiravai Swarupam. In the meantime a branch of the Elayadathu Swarupam set up residence at Nedumangad in the southernmost part of the kingdom and came to be called *Perakatavazhi*.[1] Thus by the 16th and 17th centuries the old Venad royal family came to have 4 distinctive branches of its own, viz., Quilon, Tiruvithancode, Kottarakara and Perakam. A knowledge of this family history of the Venad house is necessary for a proper understanding of the political history of Venad.

Venad in the 14th and 15th centuries

In the 14th and 15th centuries the kingdom of Venad made steady progress under a long line of illustrious rulers. When

1 *Perakatavazhi* is the Peritally of the Dutch writers.

Ravi Varma Kulasekhara's reign ended in 1313 A. D., Udaya Marthanda Varma (1313-1344 A. D.), the nephew of Jayasimha, succeeded to the throne. Perhaps, it was during the reign of this ruler that two princes from the family of the Kolathiris were adopted to the Venad royal family.[1] A palace was built at Attingal for the residence of the two Ranis and they were installed as Attingal Mutha Tampuran and Elaya Tampuram i.e., the Senior and Junior Ranis of Attingal. The country around Attingal was assigned to them and the revenues derived from it were placed at their disposal.

Vira Kerala Varma (1344-1350) who succeeded Udaya Marthanda Varma had an uneventful reign.

The period from 1350 to 1383 was a glorious epoch in the annals of the Venad royal house. During this period Iravi Iravi Varman (Ravi Varma) and Iravi Aditya Varman (Aditya Varma Sarvanganatha), the two illustrious brothers who figure in the celebrated poem *Unnuneeli Sandesam,* held sway over the kingdom. During the reign of Iravi Iravi Varman (1350-1376 A. D.) the southern frontier of Venad was subjected to the frequent attacks of the armies of the Madurai Sultans. He therefore strengthened the defences in the South and checked the Muslim raids. Iravi Iravi Varman was also a liberal patron of arts and letters. The *Unnuneeli Sandesam,* the celebrated Malayala *Kavya,* was composed during his reign.[2]

Aditya Varma Sarvanganatha (1376-1383) who succeeded Iravi Iravi Varman was a cultured and accomplished prince. In the *Unnuneeli Sandesam* he is represented as a heroic warrior (*Samgramadhira*) and a great scholar (*Sarvanganatha*), renowned equally for feats of arms and learning in the arts and sciences. Inscriptional evidence points to his continued presence in the South in an effort to stem the tide of Islamic advance. He won several victories over the Muslims who

1 The subject of this adoption has been treated at length in the *Trivandrum Gazetteer* (p. 146)

2 *Unnuneeli Sandesam* is a Sandesa Kavya written after the model of the Meghaduta of Kalidasa. It narrates the story of a message sent by a lover from Trivandrum to his lady love at Kaduthuruthi, the messenger being Prince Aditya Varma himself. Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai assigns the *Unnuneeli Sandesam* to the period 1350-1365 A. D. (*Unnuneeli Sandesam Charitradrushtiyiloode,* p. 70)

were menacing the southern frontier, and thus preserved the territorial integrity of Venad. Aditya Varma is the Venad ruler who figures in the inscription found in the Krishnaswami shrine at the Padmanabhaswami temple in Trivandrum (1375 A.D.) and also in the inscription dated 548 Kollam Era (1373) found in the Krishna temple at Vadasseri. These inscriptions testify to his abiding interest in religion and culture.

Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma (1383-1444) who succeeded Aditya Varma Sarvanganatha was one of the most powerful rulers of Venad. His is the longest recorded reign in Venad history. Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma ruled over territories on both sides of the Ghats and no other ruler of Venad till this time had more extensive possessions under his sway. Cheramahadevi in the Tirunelveli region was the favourite residence of this ruler. From his time onwards for more than a century Venad gradually extended its authority over the Tirunelveli region. This Venad king was a great patron of religion and literature. He was actively associated with the Suchindram temple and was the architect of its *Sabha Mandapa*. *Leelatilakam*, the great work on grammar and rhetoric written in Sanskrit, was produced during this period and Chera Marthanda is glorified in this work.

The next rulers of Venad were Ravi Varma (1444-1458), Sri Vira Rama Marthanda Varma Kulasekhara (1458-1469) and Kotai Aditya Varma (1469-1485).. The reigns of these rulers were uneventful. Ravi Varma (1484-1512), the next Venad ruler had, however, an eventful reign. He was a ruler of considerable ability. He effectively checked the pretensions of the *Yogakkar* of the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple and their partisans and enhanced royal authority at the expense of the Brahmin clergy and the Nair nobility. During his reign the Vijayanagar empire had grown in power and had extended its authority into the south under its able ruler Narasinga Saluva and his successors. But the advance of Vijayanagar seems to have met with resistance at the hands of Ravi Varma. Alubuquerque has recorded in his *Commentaries* that "in the war which he (the king of Travancore) carried on with the king of Narasinga who had many soldiers, both horse and foot, he attacked him with 60,000 archers and overcame him."[1] When Albuquerque arrived at Quilon in 1503 "the king had gone into the interior of the country to war, which he was

1 *Commentaries of Albuquerque* Vol. I, p. 11.

waging with the king of Narasinga."[1] The war with Vijayanagar seems to have been a prolonged one, for we have the additional testimony of Ludovico Varthema who visited Quilon in 1505 A. D. that "the king was a friend of the king of Portugal and at that time he was at war with others." It was also during the reign of Ravi Varma that Vasco Da Gama landed at Calicut (1498) and the Portuguese relations with Kerala began.

The Portuguese at Quilon

Quilon was one of the earliest scenes of Portuguese activity in Kerala. In 1501 A. D. the ruler of Quilon invited Cabral at Cochin to visit Quilon and promised to supply him with all his requirements of pepper and spices at rates cheaper than at Cochin. But the offer was politely turned down. Soon after Cabral left for Portugal. In 1502 the king of Portugal fitted out a new expedition under Vasco Da Gama with 15 vessels. During Da Gama's sojourn at Cochin, the invitation from Quilon was renewed. According to writers like Danvers, K. P. Padmanabha Menon and K. M. Panikkar it was the Queen of Quilon who sent the invitation to Da Gama.[2] The Queen requested Vasco Da Gama to send two of his largest ships to her port which she promised to load with pepper on the same terms as at Cochin. She also promised to supply him the same quantity every year. Da Gama was, however, afraid that any agreement between him and any other power on the

1 *Commentaries of Albuquerque*, Vol. I, p. 11.

2 K. P. Padmanabha Menon regards the Queen as the regent of the minor king. (Vide *History of Kerala*, Vol. II, p. 35). But we have unmistakable evidence of the fact that Venad was being ruled at this time by Ravi Varma, that he was not a minor, and that there was no regency. Nevertheless, all writers on the subject suggest that it was a Rani who invited Da Gama to trade with Quilon. It may not be wrong if we identify this Rani with the Attingal Tampuratti who was the seniormost female member of the Venad royal family. She had a rich output of pepper from her private estates and was anxious to sell it to the foreign traders on favourable terms. The arrival of the Portuguese on the coast gave her an opportunity But as the ruler was often absent from the capital being pre-occupied with problems on the frontier, the Tampuratti seems to have arrogated to herself the right to negotiate with foreign powers and conclude agreements with them. It may be noted that it was such conduct on the part of the Attingal Thampurattis which created complications for the State that made Marthanda Varma decide in favour of the direct assumption of the Attingal estate during his reign.

Malabar coast might alienate his ally, the king of Cochin. He was therefore hesitant to accept the invitation. The Queen who was on friendly terms with the king of Cochin succeeded in persuading him to give his assent to the proposed agreement with Quilon.[1] Two Portuguese ships soon called at Quilon, and returned to Cochin loaded with pepper and spices. The Queen also sent a present to Vasco Da Gama of "several silk stuffs of various colours which were made in the country and very fine white stuffs of very great worth."

In 1503 Albuquerque sent two vessels to Quilon to load pepper as he found it difficult to procure the commodity at Cochin in view of the hostility of the Zamorin and his allies. He himself came down to Quilon and established there a commercial depot and a factory with a small staff. The Arab merchants at Quilon resented this new friendship between the Portuguese and the ruler of Quilon. The Zamorin of Calicut was also infuriated and he sent a fleet of 30 ships to Quilon. The merchants at Quilon were instigated by the Zamorin's men to suspend all business transactions with the Portuguese. Every attempt was also made to persuade the king to expel the Portuguese from his dominion. What happened at Quilon is described as follows in the *Commentaries* of Albuquerque.

"Now since Afonso de Albuquerque had sent two ships on before him to get his cargo ready, as I have said, he was not at all pleased at this news, and hastened his departure the more, and in a short time arrived at Coulao, where he was very well received by the governors of the land, and by the Nambeadarim, who is the principal governor. And because the king had gone into the interior of the country to war, which he was waging with the King of Narasinga, they sent him the news immediately by means of men whom they had in relays, and in a few days he was informed of their arrival. The King, from his desire of our friendship, wrote to the Nambeadarim, and the ruler of the city, giving great thanks for the honour and hospitality which they had shown to Afonso Dalboquerque and commanded them to do all that he asked and required, and to try all they could to induce him

1 The King of Cochin gave the assent only after the Portuguese gave an assurance that they would send their ships to Quilon only if they failed to get all their requirements of pepper from Cochin. Moreover, they also undertook not to open a factory at Quilon.

to establish a trade there. Although the governors, owing to the inducements and bribes of the Camorim, were greatly opposed to this establishment, which the King wished our people to make in the land, yet he was so much feared that, without showing their discontent, they performed everything with more faithfulness than Afonso Dalboquerque had expected of them; and he forthwith established a factory house, with much merchandise, and all other things necessary to the quick despatch of the ships, whenever they came there to take in cargo. The peace having then been made, and sworn to by the King and his governors, Afonso Dalboquerque began to load his ships with pepper, at the price and weight which the admiral had fixed at Cochin. When the Camorim heard of this new friendship and trade, which the King of Coulao desired to hold with the Portuguese, in order to hinder the good effect of this business, he sent his ambassadors to him, saying that he must beware what he was about, for the Portuguese were a very bad race, and if he admitted them into his land they would rise up against him. And he added that this was the chief reason which had moved him to insist so strongly upon driving them out of India. And on this behalf he also went on to represent to him many other things to the same purpose, and sent large presents to the governors of the land, begging them to influence the King against giving a cargo to the Portuguese, or receiving them in his port. But all these artifices which the Camorim used, in order to withstand our people, now that he could not effect anything by force of arms, because the land was very far from his, availed him nothing: for the King of Coulao was a man of such truthfulness that, in spite of all these arguments which the Comorim advanced, he kept his word, and established his firiendship with Afonso Dalboquerque. And he answered the Camorim that he had received no injury or insult from the Portuguese, but rather was convinced that they were men of their word, and that unless it was their own fault, he would not withdraw from what he agreed upon. The Camorim was not pleased at this reply, and was deeply annoyed that he was unable to destroy the King of Coulao, or hinder the Portuguese from carrying the pepper which was there from Cochin to Coulao, because all the inhabitants of the interior were heathen who were desirous of peace and friendship with our people. And in Calicut all were foreign Moors who endeavoured to drive us from India, from the fear they had that we should be masters

of it, and they be ousted from their trade. When Afonso Dalboquerque knew how the Camorim was trying to induce the King of Coulao to hinder our people from settling in the land, he determined from that time forward to trade more familiarly with the latter, and transact somewhat more liberally the trading of the merchandise, although in this respect he might exceed in some measure the orders which the King had given him, and this was the reason such confidence sprang up between our people and those of the country, that they might have all been taken for native Portuguese. The chief cause of this good fellowship was the absence of Moors in the land who could endeavour to procure dissension between us and the heathen, as they had done in Calicut."[1]

Albuquerque wished to seize the ships of the Zamorin and his Arab allies at Quilon and requested the king's officers to give permission for his contemplated move. "If the permission was refused" said he, "he was determined to enter the port and burn them all and go away without taking in any cargo there or making any treaty of peace with them. The governors replied that they had written to the king, giving him an account of the affair, and the reply would not be delayed many days; and they begged him graciously, since the ships were sheltered in the port, whence they could not depart without permission, to await the king's message. Albuquerque told them he was willing to do as they desired, provided they gave orders that the ships' sails should be taken away, to prevent their escape at night. This having been agreed upon, the Nambeadarim sent immediately to lay hold of the captain, masters and pilots and take bail for their good behaviour. A few days afterwards the message of the king to the Nambeadarim arrived, wherein he ordered that if the ships were willing to show obedience to the city governors, and discharged their merchandise there the governors were to beg of Albuquerque, on his part, not to injure them, for it was sufficient punishment that they could not leave the port without permission."[1] The decision of the king was accepted by Albuquerque with grace. As the Arab vessels later tried to evade the standard weight of Quilon and passed the port, they were searched by the officers of the King. The spices

1 *Commentaries of Alfonso De Albuquerque*, Vol. I, p 13.

1 *Commentaries of Alfonso De Albuquerque*, Vol. I, pp. 8-11.

which they carried were unloaded and sent to the factory where the Portuguese and local merchants traded. The Portuguese Captain sailed for Cochin on 12th January 1504. He left behind him Antonio De Sa and 26 men and Fr. Rodrigo, a Roman Catholic Missionary.

In 1505 A.D. Almeida came to India as the Viceroy of the Portuguese dominions. He had special instructions to erect a fort at Quilon. Almeida sent Captain Homen to Quilon on behalf of the Portuguese Company to fetch cargo. On his arrival at Quilon the Portuguese Captain found that certain Arab merchants had already filled their vessels with pepper and he gave instructions to his men to seize the masts and rudders of these vessels. They were accordingly seized, removed to the Portuguese house and lodged there. The aggrieved Arab merchants of Quilon met the Raja and represented their grievance. The officials of the king went to the Portuguese house and demanded of Antonio De Sa, the keeper of the house to return the things which the Captain had seized from the Arabs. De Sa refused to return the goods and even insulted the officials. A free fight ensued between De Sa's men and the Nairs and Arabs of the locality. The Portuguese tried to save themselves by flying to a neighbouring Bhagavati temple, but the temple was surrounded and burnt to ashes by the infuriated mob. Thirteen Portuguese lost their lives in this incident. When the news of the disaster reached Almeida at Cochin, he recalled Homen from Quilon and sent his own son Lorenzo in his place with instruction to wreak vengeance on Quilon for the murder of the Portuguese officers and men. Lorenzo landed at Quilon and burnt all the ships which he was able to capture and then returned to Cochin.

The Portuguese Treaty with Quilon (1516)

For some time after this incident the Portuguese took no active interest in the affairs at Quilon because of the difficulties they had to face in other parts of Kerala. Consequently, the Portuguese trade with Quilon languished. The ruler of Quilon was sorry for the murder of the Portuguese at Quilon and was anxious to patch up the quarrels with the Portuguese. In 1508 A.D. he sent his messengers to Cochin to negotiate with the Portuguese, but nothing came out of this mission. In the meantime Almeida was superseded by Alfonso De Albuquerque (1509). With the arrival of Albuquerque the Portuguese policy towards India underwent

a radical change. Whereas Almeida had sought to establish factories in India and protect them by sea power, it was Albuquerque's policy to build forts in all places where there were factories and to coerce the native rulers to accept the imperial supremacy of Portugal. In the midst of his preoccupations connected with the ambitious programme of empire building, Albuquerque could bestow nc attention on Portuguese affairs at Quilon. In 1515 A.D. he was superseded by Lopo Soares and the latter soon concluded a treaty of peace with the Queen of Quilon (September 1516). According to this treaty the Queen agreed to rebuild the Church of St. Thomas in the same manner and in the same spot, to pay 500 *Bharas* (*Candies*) of pepper in three yearly instalments, to let the Portuguese have all the pepper and other spices that they might require at the same prices as they could obtain them at Cochin, and not to export any drugs or spices without the prior knowledge of the Portuguese. It was also agreed that the Portuguese were not to pay any dues for the use of the port of Quilon. Moreover, in case of war each party was to assist the other. The treaty also contained certain special clauses relating to local Christians. The Queen agreed to treat them with special favour and consideration. The Christian traders of the place were to pay dues only to the Portuguese, and it was also agreed that the Portuguese should have the right of converting any subject of the Queen, Hindu, or Muslim, to Christianity

The Siege of the Quilon Fort

Rodrigues was then appointed Captain of the factory and fort at Quilon, and he landed there on the 1st February, 1517. His arrival was the signal for the beginning of fresh troubles. There was considerable delay on the part of the Queen and her ministers in supplying the promised quota of pepper. Rodrigues was however prepared to allow time for the supply, if only he was permitted to build a house for the safe shelter of the Portuguese. The Queen gave the permission. The action of the Queen created much resentment among the local population. Even the Junior Rani and other members of the royal family shared this resentment. The Portuguese again took advantage of the weakness of the Queen's position and secured her permission for the construction of a fort also. It was believed by the people that the Rani and her officers had received pecuniary gratifications and presents from the

Portuguese. Hence they were bent upon preventing the construction of the fort. On the day the foundation stone was laid, the Nairs and Muslims of the locality mustered strong and tried to obstruct the erection of the building, but the Portuguese mounted their guns and frightened them. The fort was completed in September 1519 and named Fort Thomas.

When the work of fortification was over the Portuguese demanded of the Queen to pay immediately the arrears of pepper due to them. The Queen was annoyed at this demand as she was all along under the impression that she would not have to supply the pepper after she had given permission for the building of the fort. Thereupon Rodrigues resorted to violent methods to get possession of his quota of pepper. A force of mercenaries sent by him seized a consignment of 5000 bullock loads of pepper that was on the point of being taken across the Ghats through the Aryankavu Pass by traders from the East Coast. This action of Rodrigues practically put an end to the trade through the Pass. The Rani was naturally angry at the provocative conduct of the Portuguese, and she instigated the local Nairs and Mappilas to attack the Portuguese fort. A large force of Nairs and Mappilas under the leadership of Unneri Pillai, Balan Pillai and Kolla Kurup laid siege to the fort and took it without much difficulty. They entered the fort and imprisoned all the Christians, the blacksmiths, the masons and others who were engaged in the erection of the fort. The Europeans within the fort had to starve for want of food and many actually died of hunger and disease.

In the meantime the news of the siege of the Quilon fort reached the Portuguese Governor at Cochin and he sent reinforcements with the necessary provisions to break through the blockade and retake the fort. They reached Quilon in August 1520 and saved the lives of those within the fort. At this stage the Queen sent a message to the Governor of Cochin and started negotiations for a fresh agreement with the Portuguese. A treaty was signed on 17th November 1520 more or less on the lines of that of 1516. According to the terms of this agreement the pepper which had fallen into arrears was to be paid immediately. All the pepper in the land was hereafter to be sold only to the king of Portugal and to none else, and all ships arriving at Quilon were to be allowed free access to the port and well received. Moreover, the Captain of the fort was also to grant all reasonable assistance that the Queen might require. The agreement of 1520

improved the relations between the Portuguese and the ruler of Quilon for the time being.

Portuguese plunder of Tevalakkara Temple

In the monsoon of 1543 the Portuguese organised an expedition to plunder the temples on both coasts of South India. One of their targets was the temple of Tevalakkara in the Karunagapally Taluk of Quilon District. It was rumoured that this temple was enormously wealthy. The expedition against Tevalakkara was led in person by Governor De Souza. An offer of a sum of £12,000 failed to detract the Governor and his men from the contemplated move. "The Governor and his immediate following went inside the temple and shut the door; those outside the building passed a miserable night, a prey to every imaginable horror—the fall of a shield nearly caused a stampede. Inside, the Governor and his friends spent the time in torturing the Brahmins of the temple and in digging up the floor. It was never known exactly what was found, a gold paten worth £50 was all that was ever shown; but as two barrels of matchlock powder were emptied, and the barrels passed in, and as afterwards they each required 8 slaves in relays to carry them, scandal was busy. When, in the morning, they started on their return journey, a Nair, dressed with scrupulous care, with all his ornaments, followed by 10 or 12 others, flung himself on the Portuguese ranks. It was the remaining Jungada, with his relatives whom he could collect, who thus tried to wipe out by their deaths the stain upon their honour. During their retreat, the Portuguese were harassed by the country people, and suffered a loss of 30 killed and 150 wounded; but on the way, they sacked another temple whence they obtained some small amount in silver coins to distribute among the soldiery."[1]

About this time there was another treaty (25th October 1544) between the Portuguese and Venad by which the former obtained additional privileges in Quilon. It was agreed that in the event of a Portuguese or a native Christian being guilty of any crime he should be sent to the Captain for trial and punishment and that the Church of St. Thomas was to be specially protected. At the same time the Portuguese on their part, promised not to kill cows in Quilon territory.[2]

1 *Malabar and the Portuguese*, K. M. Panikkar, pp. 122-23.

2 *Malabar and the Portuguese*, K. M. Panikkar p. 124.

The Bhootala Viras

A passing reference may be made in this connection to the important rulers of Venad during this period and the major political developments associated with their reigns. The rulers of Venad had by this time begun to spend their time mostly in South Travancore where a distinct branch of the Venad family had already been established in the first half of the 15th century with its headquarters at Tiruvithancode.[1] The Venad Kings of this period were known as Bhootala Viras. Bhootala Vira Sri Udaya Marthanda Varma (1516-1535) effected fresh conquests in the Tirunelveli region and enlarged the Venad Kingdom. During his reign there occurred a clash between Vijayanagar and Venad. In the battle of the Tamraparni (1532) the forces of Venad were defeated by the Vijayanagar army. The next important reign was that of Bhootala Vira Kerala Varma (1544-1545). Under him the treaty with the Portuguese (1544) alluded to earlier was concluded. Moreover, the period also witnessed the second clash with Vijayanagar and the defeat of the Venad army at the hands of Vittala. The scope of this Chapter in this Gazetteer does not warrant a detailed treatment of the subsequent dynastic history of Venad as Quilon had now almost ceased to be the headquarters of the Venad Kingdom. As already stated earlier the reigning branch of the Venad family (Trippapur Swarupam) now lived in South Travancore. Nevertheless, some members of the old Venad family still continued to live in the palace at Quilon, and this branch came to be associated with the Chiravai Swarupam. It may be noted that it was this fact which made contemporary writers think of Quilon and its suburbs as constituting a separate Kingdom, viz. Signatti.

Quilon in the eyes of Medieval Travellers

We get several interesting notices of Quilon from the accounts of foreigners who visited the place in the medieval period. These foreign visitors were mostly missionaries or globe-trotters from Europe. In 1324 A.D. Friar Jordanus of Severic came to Quilon and spent some years doing missionary work among the Nestorians. He was subsequently appointed by the Pope as Bishop of Kaulam, latinised as Colombum. In his *Mirabilia Descriptia* Jordanus gives us an interesting account of the land and its people. He is perhaps

1 See the section on the rise of Elayadathu Swarupam.

the first writer who gives an account of the *Marumakkathayam* law. He says, "In this India never do even the legitimate sons of great kings or princes or barons inherit the goods of their parents but only the sons of their sisters, for they say that they have no surety that those are their own sons; but it is not so with the sister, for whatever man may be the father, they are certain that the offspring is of their sister, and is consequently thus truly of their blood."[1] Jordanus tells us that "the king of Colombun is called Ligna but his kingdom Mohebar."[2] Jordanus also found that the trade of Quilon was extensive. Pepper, cinnamon, ginger and brazil wood were the main articles of export. The Friar found a prosperous Christian community in Quilon and other towns on the coast. He built for them a church at Quilon known as the St. George church. Jordanus pays a tribute to the rulers of Malabar for their spirit of religious toleration. He says "And let me tell you, among the idolators, a man may with safety expound the word of the Lord, nor is any one from the idolators hindered from being baptised." He also speaks highly of the character of the local people. 'The people of this India are very clean in their feeding, true in speech and eminent in justice maintaining carefully the privileges of every man according to his degree as they have come down from old times." Jordanus also thought highly of the astrologers and physicians of Malabar.

Almost at the same time Friar Odoric, a native of Bohemia, also touched Quilon on his way to China. He found several Jews at the place. He also noted the great respect in which the cow was held by the Hindus. He calls Quilon, Polunbun "in which is grown better ginger than anywhere else in the world and the variety and abundance of wares for sale in the city is so great that it would seem past belief to many folk."

A few years later Ibn Batuta, the celebrated African traveller, visited Quilon. He describes Quilon as "one of the finest cities in Malabar with magnificent markets and very wealthy merchants." Though at the time of his visit Chinese

1 Quoted by Samuel Mateer in his '*Native Life in Travancore*' p. 178.

2 According to Yule the king whose name was Ligna might have been a Nair Lingayat in view of the peculiar law of succession. K. P. Padmanabha Menon does not accept this view. He says that Kshatriyas also followed the *Marumakkathayam* law of descent in the maternal line (*History of Kerala*, Vol. I, p. 282.)

trade with Quilon was on the decline as a consequence of the rise of Calicut, Ibn Batuta found the port still being frequented by Chinese ships. The king of the place was a person called Tiruvari (evidently Tiruvati) and he was "eminent for his strict and terrible justice." Ibn Batuta gives the following interesting picture of the administration of criminal justice at Quilon. "During my stay at Quilon", says Batuta, "a Persian archer, who was wealthy and influential, killed one of his comrades and then took refuge in the house of one Alawedji. The Musalmans wanted to bury the dead body, but the officers of the king would not allow them to do so, until the murderer was seized and punished. The officers of the king took the body in a bier to the gate of Alawedji and left it there to rot. The smell soon compelled Alawedji to hand over the murderer to the officers of the king, who refused a large bribe offered by the Persian, and had him forthwith tried and executed. The body of the victim was buried."[1] He also gives the following account of the port of Quilon and the ruler of the place. "There was also a Mahomedan Kazi and Shabandar (Master attendant). Kaulam was the first port at which the Chinese ships touched on reaching India, and most of the Chinese merchants frequented it; but the Mahomedans had already succeeded in wresting a considerable portion of the trade from their hands. They lived in separate quarters under the rule of their own Kazi. The king was an infidel called Tiruvari (Tiruvati) a man of awful justice, of which some striking instances are given by Ibn Batuta. One day when the king was riding with his son-in-law, the latter picked up a mango, which had fallen over a garden wall. The king's eye was upon him; he was immediately ordered to be ripped open and divided asunder, the parts being exposed on each side of the way, and a half of the fatal mango, beside each."[2]

Yet another distinguished foreign visitor to Quilon was John De' Marignolli of Florence, the Papal Legate. He touched Quilon in 1347 A.D. on his way to Europe from China, and lived there for over an year preaching at St. George's Church. He received for his office a tithe of 100 gold fanams every month from the Christian Community of Quilon and a bonus of 1,000 fanams at the time of his departure. An ambitious man, Jordanus wished that the people of Quilon should not

1 *History of Kerala*, Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 286.

2 Ibid pp. 285-86.

forget him. He says "To emulate the glory of Alexander the Great, I erected a stone as my land-mark and memorial, and anointed it with oil. In sooth it was a marble pillar with a stone cross upon it, intended to last till the world's end. And it had the Pope's arms and mine engraved upon it with inscriptions in both Indian and Latin characters. I consecrated it and blessed it in the presence of an infinite number of people, and was carried on the shoulders of the chiefs in a litter, or palanquin like Solomon." The monument erected by Marignolli lasted till a few decades ago when it was washed away by the waves of the sea. So long as it existed the Christian community of Quilon revered it as a proof of the visit of Apostle St. Thomas to the coast.

In the 15th century the Venetian traveller Nicolo Conti (1441) visited Quilon. He speaks of Quilon (Coeloen) "as a noble city the circumference of which is 12 miles." He was impressed by the flourishing trade in ginger, pepper, brazil-wood and cinnamon which was carried on at the port of Quilon. Nicolo Conti gives a fine description of the jack tree which he calls *Cachi* and the mango which he calls *Amba*.

The Portuguese writers of the early 15th century also give us interesting descriptions of Quilon and its people. We get the following picture of Quilon from the *Commentaries* of Albuquerque. "At the time when Alfonso Dalboquerque arrived at Coulao, it was a very large city, peopled with heathens, with not a single moor in it, nor any foreigner except the brother of Cherinamercar of Cochin, who had gone thither just lately to reside. This city was a great seaport of merchants, and anciently had in it many merchants stopping there from all parts of India, principally from Malacca. And as it was a port sheltered from the wind on every side, the ships which go to India, as well as those which passed the island of Ceilao (Ceylon) and Chale (Kayal) made their entrepot there. The King of Coulao was a very honest man, and very gallant, and in the war which he carried on with the King of Narsinga, who had many soldiers, both horse and foot, he attacked him with sixty thousand archers and overcame him. Besides the Nambeadarim, who was the chief governor of the land, there were in the city thirty-six principal men who governed it, so that it was the best ruled city at that time in those parts."[1]

1 *Commentaries of Alfonso De Albuquerque*, Vol. I, p. 11.

Ludovico Di Varthema who visited Kerala in 1505 also gives an interesting description of Qullon. "The king of this city is a Pagan, and extremely powerful, and he has 20,000 horsemen, and many archers, and is constantly at war with other kings. This country has a good port near to the sea-coast. No grain grows here, but fruits, as at Calicut, and pepper in great quantities. The colour of the people, their dress, manner of living, and customs, are the same as at Calicut. At that time, the king of this city was the friend of the king of Portugal, but being at war with others, it did not appear to us well to remain here. Wherefore, we took our way by sea, aforesaid, and went to a city which is called Chayl belonging to the same king, opposite from Colon fifty miles."[1]

We have the next account of Quilon from Duarte Barbosa who visited the place about 1514 A.D. His observations are given below. "Beyond this kingdom of Cochin towards the south, the kingdom of Coulam is entered; between these kingdoms there is a place which is called Porca, it belongs to a lord........ Having passed this place the kingdom of Coulam commences, and the first town is called Cayncolan in which dwell many Gentiles, Moors, and Indian Christians of the doctrine of St. Thomas. And many of these Christians live inland amongst the Gentiles. There is much pepper in this place of which there is much exportation. ...."Further on along the same course towards the south is a great city and good seaport wihch is named Coulam, in which dwell many Moors and Gentiles and Christians. They are great merchants and very rich, and own many ships, with which they trade to Cholmendel, the island of Ceylon, Bengal, Malaca, Samatara, and Pegu; these do not trade with Cambay. There is also in this city much pepper. They have a Gentile king, a great lord of much territory and wealth, and of numerous men at arms, who for the most part are great archers. At this city, withdrawn a little from it, there is promontory in the sea where stands a very great church which the apostle St Thomas built miraculously before he departed this life............ This church was endowed by the king of Coulam with the revenue from the pepper which remains to it to this day."[2]

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1 *Travels of Ludovico Di Varthema*—Haklyut Society, p. 184.

2 *Description of the Coasts of East Africa and Malabar*—Haklyut Society, p. 57.

Political Geography of South Kerala about the middle of the 17th century

Though the Portuguese were the first of the European nations to establish their political influence in Kerala, their power did not last long. The power of Portugal on the seas steadily declined after the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English fleet in 1588 A.D. The Protestant powers of Holland and England now entered the scene as rivals of the Portuguese. Before we proceed to deal with the relations of the Dutch and the English with Quilon, we may briefly describe the political geography of South Kerala about the middle of the 17th century A.D. The Dutch writings and records throw interesting light on the contemporary political divisions. John Nieuhoff who was the Chief Director of the Dutch Company at Quilon in 1664 gives in his *Voyages and Travels* a short account of the various kingdoms of the period, viz., Tiruvithancode (Travancore), Quilon (Signatti), Karunagapally (Marta), Purakkad (Porca), Perakatavazhi (Peritally), Elayadathu Swarupam (including Kottarakara, Pathanapuram, Shencottah and Kalakkad) Kulli Quilon (Kayamkulam) etc., etc. Brief accounts of some of the kingdoms which are relevant to our narrative are given below.[1]

Tiruvithancode (*Travancore*). "The kingdom of Travankoor begins at the cape of Comory or Comorin, and extends all along the sea-coast as far as Koulang, comprehending a tract of ground of 20 or 24 leagues in length; the famous village of Paru, belonging to the Queen of Singnaty being only in the midst. To the east it borders upon the kingdom of Madure, and to the west upon the countries of Peretaly and Kotarkery. It has several considerable villages which are inhabited by the moors, such as Tengepatnam, Kuletture, Korityapatnam and Allage .... But the chief cities lie deeper in the country, which is of a great extent all along the mountains to Naynar, near the cape of Comorin and toward Travankoor, in all 29 great cities and villages. About a league and a half to the north of the cape is the city of Kotate or Kokatti, a place of great traffick; the populous city of Simintra and Matadavalur, famous for its bigness, being surrounded by six or seven other towns; Verrage is not above a quarter of a

1 These accounts are taken from the *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. I, V. Nagam Aiya, pp. 308-310 and the *History of Kerala*, Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 288-290.

league distance from Kotate and Tatikury, the two most considerable places of the whole country. Kalkolang is a very large city, being a league and a half long, upon the confines of the Neyk of Madure. It is situated upon a high hill, 3 leagues from Tengepatnam, and 12 from Koulang; being on one side strengthened by inaccessible mountains, on the other by a wall, the undermost part of which is of stone, the uppermost of brick-work, in all 24 foot high; the royal palace stands at the west end, being surrounded by a stone wall. On the east side you see the ruins of an old castle, built on the top of a hill, fortified with a triple wall. Kalkolang is the chief residence of the king who constantly keeps a garrison of 10,000 negroes here, to secure it against the Neyk of Madure, whose power is much dreaded here ...... He is by some styled the great king, because he possesses larger territories than any other of the Malabar kings. He is served in great state, and maintains abundance of commanders, whom they call Mandigals and many councellors, called Pullas. Some ascribe to him a superiority over neighbouring princes, but of this I am convinced to the contrary by my own experience; it is true they reverence him, as a potent king, but pay him no obedience. Others will have him to be a vassal of the king of Narasinga".

Quilon. "The city is fortified with a stone wall of 18 to 20 feet high, and eight bastions; its suburbs, which are very large and stately, are by the Portuguese called Colang Cina. For Koulang is separated into two bodies, one of which is called the upper or Malabar Koulang, the other the lower Koulang; in the first the king and queen kept their ordinary residences; the last was formerly in the possession of the Portuguese; here the frairs of St. Paul and the Franciscans had each a monastery, adorned with stately chappels and steeples. Besides which there were four other Portuguese churches here, dedicated to as many Romish Saints; they had no less than seven goodly churches, among which was the famous church built many years ago by the Christians of St. Thomas, which was left standing, after we reduced the place into a narrow compass; in this church is the tomb of a certain great Portuguese captain, who was Governor of Koulang 60 years. The houses of the inhabitants were very stately and lofty, built of free stones; among which the Stadthouse surpassed all the rest; it was two storeys high, and had very curious stone steps on each side. But the castle, the residence

of the Portuguese Governor, surmounted all the rest in magnificence; it lies very near the sea-side, at one end of the city, being covered on the top with coco leaves, as likewise two of its turrets, the third being tiled with pantiles. Just upon the sea-shore is another four-square tower where I set up the Company's flag on the top of a mast. In the midst of it is a very lofty edifice, which the Portuguese used for a chapel, which I ordered to be made up into divers convenient chambers, and to be fitted for the use of the Company's Officers. This castle is the strongest the Portuguese ever were masters of on the Coast of Malabar, being built some hundred years ago by the famous engineer Hector de la Casa (who died in A.D. 1560).

"This city as I told you before was drawn into a less compass by the Dutch, which they fortified on the land-side with two half and one whole bastion. Most of the churches and other public edifices were pulled down, except the castle, St. Thomas' Church and some monasteries, which remained standing within the said precinct. * * * * *

"The harbour is very convenient for small vessels, but not for great ones, because the south-wind blows directly upon the shore and forces the waves with great violence thither; they call it Coyclanal. About a league to the west of Koulang the great river Eqwick disembogues into the sea. * * * * *

"On the side of Koulang China, along the sea-shore, the Jesuits had built a great village for the Parvees, a poor sort of Malabars living upon fishing, where the Governor of the king of Travankor and Prince Baryette Poelo (Vatayattu Pilla) kept their residence, which are about a mile in circuit and surrounded with an earthen wall, with some points like bastions, on which are mounted good store of great cannon, which command the roads, without which there is scarce any access to them.

"The best houses are built along the river-side, with very good gardens, stocked with all sorts of trees, fruits, flowers, and herbs, but especially with citrons, which grow here not on trees, but shrubs; their houses are seldom above two storeys high, their stairs within of stone, their rooms above stairs are paved with green and yellow four square stones, the cieling of which is commonly of Indian oak, some being

finely carved, others painted. They commonly have an arbour or summer-house belonging to each garden, which is commonly near the river-side, where they spend generally their evenings, and divert themselves with anything".

Karunagapally (*Marta*). "The kingdom of Marta or Marten is very near as big as that of Kalkoulang, extending to the north as far as Porka; to the south it borders upon the Indian sea, and to the east it is surrounded by high mountains, and washed by the same river, upon which Cochin and Koulang lie.........This king possesses some parts of the country in common with the king of Kalkoulang, a thing not usual on this coast, where are so many petty kingdoms, that it requires no small time, to distinguish and know them from one another .... The king is a sovereign prince, he that then reigned being of about 60 years of age, very large of body and a stern countenance; he keeps constantly 1,200 negroes in pay: his residence is at Carnopoly (Karunagapalli), a place surrounded with an earthen wall of 20 feet high but appeared much decayed at the time".

The Dutch Conquest of Quilon (1658) and the Treaty of 1659.

The Dutch East India Company was formed in 1602 to carry on trade with the East. The connection of the Dutch with Kerala began with the treaty they negotiated with the Zamorin in 1604.[1] But the first Dutch contact with Quilon took place only in 1658 A.D. The Council of Batavia fitted out an expedition under Van Goens in September 1657 with the object of destroying the power of the Portuguese in India and Ceylon. On the 29th December 1658 the members of the expedition captured the Portuguese fortress of Quilon.[2] On 7th January 1659 a treaty was entered into between the Dutch Company and the Queen of Quilon[3]. The treaty affirmed the intention

1 *Malabar and the Dutch*, K. M. Panikkar, p. 2.

2 All earlier writers on the subject have ascribed the Dutch Conquest of Quilon to December 1661. Dr. Poonen has proved on the evidence of contemporary Dutch and English records that Van Goens conquered Quilon on the 29th December, 1658. It was however subsequently recovered by the local ruler. What happened in December 1661 was only the recapture of Quilon by Van Goens (Vide *A Survey of the rise of the Dutch power in Malabar*, T. I. Poonen, pp. 68-69 and 79-81).

3 *A Survey of the rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar*, T. I. Poonen, p. 70.

of both parties to maintain "a firm peace, love and union". The town of Quilon and the Portuguese gardens, grounds and cottages were placed in the full possession of the Dutch Company. The black Christian inhabitants and natives of the land were to remain as vassals of the Queen in their places keeping their cottages and continuing to be subservient to the Company as in the days of the Portuguese. No Portuguese or white priests were to be allowed to dwell in the city. The Company and the Queen were to assist each other in the event of either party going to war against any enemy. The Queen also undertook to give the pepper of her land to none except the Dutch. All native vessels were to sail only with the passes issued by the Dutch Captain. All Dutch ships were to have free access to the port and to be well received. The treaty secured for the Dutch practically the monopoly of the trade in spices at Quilon to the exclusion of other European nations.

After the capture of Quilon Van Goens left for Cannanore. In the meantime he received orders to send 500 of his men to Batavia and not to proceed any further with his campaigns in Kerala. Van Goens thereupon returned to Quilon. Here he stationed a Dutch garrison under Captain Cook and Mr. Nieuhoff for guarding the fortifications of the city and then left the place with his fleet. After his departure the Dutch garrison at Quilon had to contend against a hostile force of 3,000 Portuguese and a few thousand Nairs. Van Der Meyden, the Governor of Ceylon, then proceeded to Quilon and withdrew the garrison on the 14th April 1659. Under orders of the Batavia Council Van Goens again appeared off the Malabar coast early in 1660, but he did not venture to attack Quilon.

Recapture of Quilon

In the meantime the Dutch Governor of Ceylon received a personal appeal for help from Vira Kerala Varma, the senior prince of the *Mootha Tavazhi* of the Cochin royal family against his name sake of the Palluruthi branch who was being supported by the Portuguese. The *Mootha Tavazhi* branch had the support of the Zamorin of Calicut and the Rajas of Vadakkumkur and Tekkumkur. The Council of Batavia decided to respond to the appeal of the Mootha Tavazhi prince and sent expeditions to Malabar to assist him. Here was another opportunity for Van Goens to retake Quilon. About 7th of

December 1661 he appeared off the coast of Quilon at the head of a fleet. On the 8th the Dutch disembarked and marched into the country. They were opposed by a large body of Nairs. On the very first day of the encounter the Dutch lost 13 men killed and about 30 wounded while "the ways and fields were sown with dead Malabaries". The Portuguese left the city of Quilon on the same afternoon on which the Dutch landed. The Dutch found the main streets and buildings except the churches fallen into ruins overgrown everywhere and for inhabitants toads, snakes and centipedes[1] There were, however, seven large and well-adorned churches built of brick by the Portuguese[2]. After its recapture Van Goens spent a few days in Quilon putting the city in better conditions for defence and then left for Cochin which fell to the Dutch in 1663.

Dutch Treaties with Signatti and Travancore.

After the recapture of Quilon by Van Goens in 1661 two separate treaties were concluded between the Dutch Company on the one side and Signatti (Quilon) and Travancore on the other[3]. The treaty with Signatti was entered into on 31st March 1662 between the Queen of Quilon, the Ragiodore or Bariattu Pilla, the Kurup for himself and for the king of Travancore and the Ragiodore of the Queen of the Signatti named Marthanda Pillai on the one side, and Van Goens on behalf of the Company on the other. The treaty repeated all the clauses of the earlier agreement concluded on 7th January 1659. Van Goens promised on behalf of the Company to restore to the Queen all the guns taken out of her palace and in addition to make a present of one of the Company's guns and 1,500 fanams in cash as a token of mutual friendship. An interesting feature of the treaty was that the king of Travancore and the Raja of Kayamkulam stood surety that the promises made by the Dutch Company would be faithfully carried out. The treaty also made arrangements for the administration of law and order in the town of Quilon. It was provided that if any Dutchman slew a native or a native slew a Dutchman the murderer should be punished with death.

1 *The Dutch in Malabar,* A. Galletti, p. 11.

2 It may be noted in this connection that of all the Europeans who came to the East the Portuguese have earned the reputation of being the greatest builders.

3 See *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar,* T.I. Poonen, pp. 82-84 and 159-160.

At the same time, in all cases of minor disputes between the subjects of the Queen and those of the Company the person concerned was to be punished according to the law of the land after due investigation of his guilt.

The other treaty with Travancore concluded by the Dutch Company in the town of Kallada on the 31st March 1662 provided for perpetual peace between the two parties. The area and the town of Coylan (Quilon) together with the Portuguese mines, lands, etc., were to be the property of the Dutch Company. No Portuguese were to be allowed to remain in the country after the conclusion of the treaty. The Dutch were to enjoy the exclusive monopoly of the pepper trade and no vessels were to sail without the Dutch Company's pass. The servants of the Company were to enjoy personal security in every part of the country. The Dutch Governor also undertook to make to the ruler of Travancore a present of several guns and 15,000 fanams.

In 1664 there was a fresh treaty between the Dutch Company on the one side and the ruler of Travancore on the other. The agreement concluded on 2nd March 1664 provided that no one should be permitted to export pepper or cinnamon out of the former's territory or to sell them to any one except the Dutch and that the Dutch East India Company alone should have the right of exporting, selling or exchanging opium. A schedule of prices was settled with due regard to the share that the contracting parties should have in the customs duties.[1] The Queen was so much satisfied with the provisions of this treaty that she presented a bracelet (Veera Sringala) to Nieuhoff when he visited her at Kallada. The interview is thus described by Nieuhoff. "On Second of March with break of day, the Viceroy of the king of Travancore called by them Gorepe, the chief commander of the negroes called Matta de Pulo and myself, set out for the court of the queen of Koulang which was then kept at Calliere (Kallada). We arrived there about two a clock in the afternoon, and as soon as notice was given of our arrival, we were sent for to court, where, after I had delivered the presents, and laid the money down for pepper, I was introduced into her majesty's presence. She had a guard of above 700 soldiers about her, all clad after the Malabar fashion; the Queen's attirement being no more than a piece of callicoe

1 *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar*, T. I. Poonan, pp. 160—61.

wrapt round her middle, the upper part of her body appearing for the most part naked, with a piece of callicoe hanging carelessly round her shoulders. Her ears, which were very long, her neck and arms were adorned with precious stones, gold rings and bracelets, and her head covered with a piece of white callicoe. She was past her middle age, of a brown complexion, with black hair tied in a knot behind, but of a majestic mein, she being a princess who shew'd a great deal of good conduct in the management of her affairs. After I had paid the usual compliments, I shew'd her the proposition I was to make to her in writing; which she ordered to be read twice, the better to understand the meaning of it, which being done, she asked me, whether this treaty comprehended all the rest, and whether they were annulled by it; unto which I having given her a sufficient answer, she agreed to all our propositions, which were accordingly signed immediately..................I then desired leave to depart, because I expected Mr. Hustart[1] every hour at Koulang, which she readily granted, and at the same time took a golden bracelet from her arms, which she presented me as a token of her good inclinations to the company. She ordered one of the Residoors to fasten it to my arm, but it being too streight, she caused it to be fitted for me, she having once before viz., when I first gave her notice of Mr. Hustart's coming, presented me with another golden bracelet, for which and all other honours, I had received from her majesty, since my residence at Koulang, I returned my hearty thanks, desiring her once more not to withdraw her favour from the company[2]".

There is also an interesting description of the visit paid by Nieuhoff to the king of Travancore, then staying at Attingal, with the idea of arranging the treaty. "We travelled for about a league along the sea-side, till we came to a large river, which carried us in three hours rowing to the court; here we understood that the king was just then ready to go to Kalkolang, I gave immediate notice of my arrival to his majesty, who sent for me by one of his Residoors, he met us on the stairs-head, with many of his courtiers; where I presented him with the usual respect, the letter, with some presents which he received

1 Councillor of the Indies and Governor and Director of the Isle of Ceylon and the Malabar coast.

2 Quoted in the *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, T. K. Velu Pillai, pp. 201-202.

and caused the letter to be read aloud before all there present, telling me, that he would forthwith let me know his intention, and that in the meanwhile I might take a walk into the garden of the castle, with some of his Residoors; and discourse with them farther in a certain grove, which he pointed at with his fingers. Accordingly I began to talk more at large, concerning my propositions, with the four Residoors who were for treating with me immediately upon the subject in hand, which I told them I had no orders to do, my business being to treat with the king in person. They having given the king an account of what I said, brought me word, that his majesty, in a matter of such consequence could not take the resolution till the next day, desiring me to have patience till then, and presented us with Pysang and some other refreshments....."..

"The next day, being the 14th of February, about eight a' clock in the morning the king sent for me to court again by a negro, where we met the before mentioned four Residoors at the gate, ready to receive us, we went together into the garden, where I caused a carpet to be spread under the shadow of some trees, as they did their Indian mats; and being seated, the chiefest of the Residoors told me, that his majesty was not a little dissatisfied at our burning the Royal Palace of Koulang, and that he had given him orders to treat of that as well as the other subject with me. That the letter sent to admiral Hustart had been written with no other intention, than to treat concerning the pretentions of prince Gondormo and that therefore, they would be glad to hear what instructions I had about that matter. As I thought it not for our purpose to tergiversate in the matter, I told them bluntly, that Gondormo might thank himself for his misfortunes; for that when our fleet and forces, about two years ago appeared near Cochin, to attack the Portuguese our enemies, the Dutch admiral had set up a white flag, to show his willingness to treat with the queen of Cochin, which Gondormo had not only prevented, but also attacked our forces, and opposed and still did oppose all our designs tending to the re-establishment of the government of Cochin upon its true foundation.. . . .. I assured them farther, that his majesty of Travancore, had been always in great esteem with our company, that they never doubted of his friendship, notwithstanding he seemed to bear so great a share in Gondormo's business; that I was sent thither on purpose to

enter into a more strict league with him, in the same manner as had been done with several other kings his neighbours. Whilst they were debating this matter, an envoy arrived from the queen of Koulang, with a letter, in which she complained, that she had not received any share of the customs, nor were the cannon restored to her; the Residoor asked me what the meaning of it was, and whether, we would do less than the Portuguese had done? I answered him, if we should follow the footsteps of the Portuguese we must be guilty likewise of the same enormities, in murthering, plundering, etc., things not customary among us, the intention of our company being to maintain everyone in his right, and to establish a free commerce without interruption; and these, said I, are the main contents of my commission, according to which I am to treat with all the kings and princes of the coast of Malabar.

"After several other debates, finding them full of tergiversations, I roundly told them, that I found them very backward in what had been proposed; that for my part, I had done all what I could to procure a peace, but that they seemed to be rather inclinable to war; and finding them somewhat puzzled by their silence, said, that if as yet they could find out any expedient, to compose matters upon reasonable terms, I should be willing to hearken to them, and that, if it was for a yearly present, or a sum of money, once for all they should have it. The king being informed of this resolution, sent me word back, that in a thing of this nature, in which several others besides himself were concerned, he must take some leisure to advise, which done, he would send one of his Residoors to Koulang to treat farther of the matter. I insisted upon having all things dispatched here, but the Residoors telling me, that they durst not urge it any more to the king, for that time, I was fain to acquiesce, and to defer it till our next meeting at Koulang though I very well foresaw that this negotiation would meet with no small difficulties, unless something more were granted than had been offered hitherto. About the same time the before-mentioned queen, sent me underhand word, that she was very inclinable to a farther treaty, but that it could not be done till the king of Travancore was gone, which as it was no unwelcome news to me, so I desired the Residoor whom she sent to me, to use his utmost interest with her majesty to bring it to pass, being sensible

that it was the intention of my Masters to live with her in a *good correspondence*"[1].

In April 1665 and August 1666 there were two other treaties between the Dutch East India Company and the king of Travancore[2]. The former treaty declared that there shall be peace and friendship between the Company and the King of Travancore so long as the sun and moon shall last. Both parties were to assist each other in the event of either party going to war with any hostile power. The king of Travancore was not to allow any other European nation, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, French, English, Danish, Swedish or any other, to live or trade in his lands. The king undertook to deliver exclusively to the Dutch Company all the pepper produced in his kingdom and also to take effective measures to prevent smuggling. The Dutch Company alone was to enjoy the power to bring opium by water to the kingdom of Travancore. All the incoming goods and merchandise brought by the Dutch Company were to be exempted from the payment of toll. While the above provisions were included in the treaty of 1665 with a view to protecting Dutch political and commercial interests in Travancore the treaty of 1666 contained provisions to regulate religious matters. Under the latter treaty it was agreed by the king of Travancore, that the Romish priests of St. Paul's living in his kingdom would be expelled and that they would not be admitted again. The interests of the Christian fishermen living in the coastal areas were to be specially protected by allowing the Company to continue their friendly dealings with them.

The rulers of Signatti and Travancore were not the only rulers of South Kerala with whom the Dutch East India Company entered into friendly relations. Similar treaties were concluded also with other rulers like those of Marta (Karunagapally) and Kulli Quilon (Kayamkulam)[3]. A treaty concluded between the Dutch and the ruler of Marta on 7th February 1664 provided that the latter would sell all the pepper and all the cinnamon produced in his land to the Dutch Company alone and to no other European nation. The

1 Quoted in the *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, T. K. Velu Pillai, pp. 198-200.

2 *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar*, T. I. Poonen, pp. 161-164.

3 Ibid., pp. 167-172.

Dutch Company was also to enjoy the monopoly of importing selling or exchanging opium. Another treaty concluded on 29th January 1665 contained a confirmation of the earlier treaty and also a pledge on the part of the ruler of Marta not to trade with the Moorish traders. A third treaty between Marta and the Dutch Company concluded in 1672, besides renewing the earlier treaty also contained an additional clause to the effect that the Dutch may place guards along the coast who would be assisted by the Nairs, when necessary. Thus by a series of treaties with the local rulers the Dutch sought to build up their political, commercial and religious influence in South Kerala. The chief settlements of the Dutch in the region about 1667 were Quilon, Kayamkulam, Purakkad, Karunagapally and Tengapatanam.

The Rise of the English Power.

The 17th century saw the rise of the English power in South Kerala. In 1664 the English East India Company obtained permission from the king of Travancore to build a factory at Vizhinjam, about 8 miles south of Trivandrum. In 1684 it obtained from the Rani of Attingal a sandy spot of land at Anjengo and appointed a commercial Resident there. In 1690 the Rani also granted permission to the Company to build a fort at Anjengo and this was completed about 1695 A.D. In 1723 a formal treaty was concluded between the English East India Company and the ruler of Travancore by which the latter undertook to construct a fort at Colachel for which artillery and munitions were to be supplied by the English. The treaty also declared that Travancore was to be in league and united in good friendship with the English East India Company. According to another understanding arrived at between the English Company and the ruler of Travancore the former also undertook to assist the latter in destroying the power of the nobles (*Pillamar*) who were the inveterate enemies of royal authority. In 1726 the English also got a site for a factory at Edava from the Rani of Attingal. Thus by the time of the accession of Marthanda Varma to the throne of Travancore in 1729 the English East India Company had emerged as an important factor in the politics of Kerala and the foundation for the future alliance between the Travancore and the English had already been laid.

MODERN HISTORY

The reign of Marthanda Varma (1729-1758) marks the beginning of the modern period in the history of Travancore[1]. The major political developments of the reign which are relevant to a proper understanding of the history of the Quilon District during this period are the wars with the rulers of Quilon, Kayamkulam and Kottarakara (Elayadathu Swarupam) which led to serious complications with the Dutch.

War with Quilon and Kayamkulam.

Quilon and the tract of country stretching several miles to the east and south which formed an integral part of Venad from early times had been at this time under the sway of Unni Kerala Varma, an uncle of Marthanda Varma. This prince who aspired for the throne of Travancore was the senior member of the Travancore royal family and because of his having belonged to the Quilon branch he could not come to the throne. Marthanda Varma who belonged to the Kalkulam or Trippappur branch and was already exercising royal authority in the previous reign, ascended the throne, though he was younger in age than Unni Kerala Varma. The feud between the two princes led to war. Unni Kerala Varma strengthened his position by the adoption of a prince from Kayamkulam in 1731 and took possession of East Kallada near Quilon which belonged to the Trippappur branch. Marthanda Varma was provoked by the action of Unni Kerala Varma and demanded the immediate evacuation of the occupied territory. The Travancore army under Dalava Arumukhom Pillai at once marched against Quilon, took the city and destroyed its forts and other defensive works. In his defeat the Raja agreed to cancel the Kayamkulam adoption, to demolish the fortifications at Quilon and to pay tribute to Travancore. He also agreed to the annexation of his kingdom by Travancore after his death. Unni Kerala Varma was then brought to Trivandrum and lodged in the Palace at Valiakoikkal as a state prisoner. A small detachment of soldiers was stationed at Quilon under the command of Dalava Arumukhom Pillai. But the trouble with Quilon did not end there.

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1 A detailed account of the reign of Marthanda Varma can be had from the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*. Only events which are relevant to the history of the Quilon District are treated in this Chapter.

In the meantime Marthanda Varma had seized the small state of Karunagapally (Marta) which lay between Quilon and Kayamkulam. The Raja of Kayamkulam viewed the developments in Quilon and Karunagapally with alarm. He negotiated an alliance with the Rajas of Cochin, Purakkad and Vadakkumkur with the object of reinstating the Raja of Quilon on his throne. He sent secret emmissaries to Trivandrum to establish contacts with the Raja of Quilon and to assure him of the support of the Northern Alliance. The Raja managed to escape from Trivandrum and joined the Kayamkulam ruler. On his return new forts were built and Quilon was further strengthened with a view to withstand the attacks from the Travancore army. The Raja of Quilon was supported by the Dutch in addition to the rulers of Kayamkulam and Cochin. Arumukhom Pillai attempted to take the Quilon fort but he did not succeed in his effort. Meanwhile, the Raja of Kayamkulam invaded Karunagapally. Alarmed by this development Marthanda Varma decided to make a simultaneous attack on Quilon and Kayamkulam. The Kayamkulam Raja sent one of his ministers Iswara Bhattatiri to the Dutch Governor Maten seeking Dutch help against Travancore. But the Dutch did not give any active assistance as they felt that all the troubles were the result of the unprovoked invasion of Karunagapally by the Raja of Kayamkulam. The Dutch Governor, however, suggested that the Kayamkulam chief might ally himself with Nedumangad whose ruler had refused permission to the Travancore army to pass through his territory to attack Kayamkulam. But Marthanda Varma effectively prevented the combination of their forces by capturing Nedumangad and Kottarakara both of which were under the rule of the Elayadathu Swarupam branch. In 1734 A.D. he removed the members of the Elayadathu Swarupam to his own capital. In his campaigns Marthanda Varma received assistance from the English at Anjengo and Edava and the French at Mahe. A large army was mobilised and put into the field against the ruler of Kayamkulam. One section of the Travancore army attacked Quilon while another proceeded against Kayamkulam. Several battles were fought without any decisive result. The Raja of Kayamkulam who had commanded his army in person was killed in battle in 1734 A.D. The death of the ruler did not, however, mean the defeat of Kayamkulam. The war was continued by the deceased Raja's brother with greater vigour.

The new ruler was even more powerful as he had succeeded to the rulership of Quilon on the death of Unni Kerala Varma by virtue of the adoption of 906 Kollam Era (1731 A.D.) The Raja's army assisted by Dutch contingents from Tangasseri advanced southwards towards Attingal and besieged Viralam near the place. The place was defended by Rama Varma, the heir-apparent of Travancore. In the meantime Marthanda Varma arrived on the scene at the head of an army collected from the Trivandrum-Chirayinkil area and put the besiegers to flight.

Annexation of Elayadathu Swarupam

In 1734 A.D. Vira Kerala Varma the Raja of Elayadathu Swarupam (Kottarakara) died and was succeeded by a young princess. The real authority in the kingdom was, however, exercised by an unscrupulous officer designated the *Sarvadhikariakar*. This officer was guilty of gross mismanagement and therefore Marthanda Varma removed him from the place and assumed the administration of Elayadathu Swarupam. The princess was permitted to live either at Kottarakara or at Trivandrum as she pleased on a pension. But the princess preferred to escape to Thekkumkur where she received the hospitality of the ruler. The Dutch now espoused the cause of Elayadathu Swarupam and sent a message of protest to the king of Travancore in 1740. But as the message proved futile Van Imhoff the Dutch Governor sought a personal interview with the ruler during which he tried to solve the issue by persuasion, but finding it of no avail threatened an invasion of Travancore. The following story is told of the interview between Van Imhoff and Marthanda Varma. The latter jestingly said that if the Dutch were to invade his kingdom "there are forests in Travancore in which I and my people can retire in safety". Van Imhoff retorted that "where Travancoreans could go the Dutch could follow". The interview is stated to have ended abruptly with a contemptuous remark from Marthanda Varma that "he had himself been thinking of some day invading Europe with his *munchies* (Canoes) and fishermen". The interview instead of solving the problem only rendered it more difficult of solution by ruffling the feelings on both sides. In 1741 Van Imhoff installed the princess of Elayadathu Swarupam on her throne in defiance of the Travancore ruler. In return she gave the Dutch a large farm at Airoor, three Dutch miles from Quilon. Marthanda

Varma provoked by the action of the Dutch collected his forces and attacked the combined forces of the Dutch and Elayadathu Swarupam. The allied forces were completely beaten. The victory was so complete that not a single Dutch soldier survived to tell the tale of the tragic disaster that overtook them. The Elayadathu Swarupam was annexed to Travancore and the princess fled to Cochin and placed herself under the protection of Van Imhoff. The Travancore army then attacked the Dutch forts in Travancore and captured all of them. In July 1741 there took place the famous battle of Colachel in which the Dutch were completely defeated by the forces of Marthanda Varma. Several Dutch men were taken prisoners. One of those Dutch prisoners was D'Lannoy who later rose to the rank of General in the service of the Travancore army. The battle of Colachel shattered all Dutch dreams of the conquest of Malabar and paved the way for the steady expansion of Travancore towards the north.

Battle of Quilon.

Soon after the battle of Colachel the Travancore army under Ramayyan Dalava and D'Lannoy proceeded against Quilon where the Dutch being in a stronger position had now concentrated all their attention. Several battles were fought against the combined armies of the Kayamkulam Raja and the Dutch. About 6,000 men of the Travancore army attacked the Dutch fort at Quilon and it was gallantly defended by an army commanded by Achyuta Warrier, a minister of the Kayamkulam Raja. The Travancore forces were defeated and obliged to retreat. The Dutch and Kayamkulam forces now marched southwards and captured Kilimanur in 1742. In the meantime, fresh reinforcements arrived for the Travancore army and the ruler himself assumed personal command of the forces. Kilimanur was retaken and the Dutch and Kayamkulam forces retreated to Quilon with heavy loss. The Travancore army then advanced upon Kayamkulam. After some resistance the Raja sued for peace. By the Treaty of Mannar (1742) the Kayamkulam Raja became a vassal of the Travancore king and ceded to Travancore all the territories which formerly belonged to the Quilon branch. Kayamkulam was formally annexed to Travancore only in 1746.

Dutch Quilon.

Even after the annexation of Kayamkulam by Travancore and the treaty of Mavelikara (1753) the Dutch fort at

Tangasseri continued to exist under the name of Dutch Quilon. By degrees the revenue officers of Travancore began to interfere with the limits of Dutch Quilon and this led to troubles. In October 1788 a conference was held at Mavelikara and one of the decisions of the conference was that the Raja's officials should not interfere in the affairs of Dutch Quilon[1]. When on 20th October 1795 the Dutch fort at Cochin surrendered to the British under Major Petrie, the dependencies under Cochin the most important of which was Tangasseri or Dutch Quilon also passed into British hands.

Quilon under the Dharma Raja.

During the reign of Dharma Raja (1758-1798) the Quilon District was not the scene of any major political developments. It was during this period that the Mysorean invasion of Kerala took place. As the northern part of the kingdom of Travancore was affected by this invasion the Raja and his ministers were preoccupied with the affairs on the northern frontier. The Quilon District enjoyed comparative peace and settled government during this period. Fra Bartolomeo, the Christian Missionary who visited Quilon during the reign of the Dharma Raja, writes as follows about the city. "The most ingenious artists on the Malabar coast reside at Collam. Cotton, pepper, ginger, cardamom and other kinds of merchandise are carried hither by water and deposited in warehouses ......There is here abundance of excellent fish, tortoises, very good rice, bananas, pine-apples and other fruits, pulse, milk, butter and in short everything necessary for those who wish to live according to the manner of the Pythagoreans, which is indeed the case with all the Pagan inhabitants, on the coast of Malabar[2]" Waste lands lying east of the Neendakara bar and south of the backwater were reclaimed and peopled during the reign of the Dharma Raja and the tract came to be called Dalavapuram. Several roads were also opened and many rest houses established. A notable event of this period was the Treaty of 1795 between the English East India Company and Travancore according to which an English force of infantry and artillery was to be stationed in Travancore. Quilon was chosen as the place for the location of the British force.

1 *History of Kerala*, Vol. I, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 291.

2 *A Voyage to the East Indies*, Fra Paolino Bartolomeo, pp. 116-117.

Quilon under Velu Tampi.

Quilon comes into prominence again during the reign of Balarama Varma (1798-1811). Velu Tampi who became Dalava in 1801 took a keen personal interest in the welfare and prosperity of Quilon. In 1804 he embarked on a scheme for the improvement of the town and the restoration of its ancient glory. He constructed the *Huzur Cutcheri*, a temple[1] and a palace at Quilon. New and extensive bazaars were laid out and the commercial activity of Quilon was revived. Merchants from Madurai and Tirunelveli settled there on the invitation of the Dalava. The road from Quilon to Shencottah was also opened during this period and a feeding house for the convenience of travellers was established at Mampuzhathura. In short, the Dalava did all he could to make Quilon again a centre of administration and trade. It may be mentioned in this connection that in setting up the *Huzur Cutcheri* or Dalava Cutcheri at Quilon, it was perhaps Velu Tampi's aim to keep a watch from close quarters over the activities of the English East India Company whose subsidiary force had been stationed at Quilon under the treaties of 1795 and 1805.

It was as a storm centre of the rebellion of 1809 organised by Velu Tampi against the British that Quilon emerged into prominence during this period. As the town was a citadel of the British army, the town and its surrounding areas naturally became a major scene of activity during the rebellion. In the very early days of the rebellion (January 1809) Velu Tampi moved from Alleppey towards Quilon where the people had already become agitated over the large scale landings of British forces. Even before his arrival at Quilon a large number of armed men well supplied with munitions had assembled there awaiting the Dalava's call to action. Velu Tampi's men from the northern and southern parts of Travancore State were also expected to converge on Quilon and join forces with the local militia. On finding his way to Quilon blocked at Neendakara by the British troops the Dalava decided to enter East Quilon via Kottarakara and from there proceed to Kilikollur where his followers had been eagerly awaiting his arrival. The Dalava in the meantime also made arrangements to set up his war-time headquarters at Kundara and gave instructions to his men to deploy his

1 The Anandavalleeswaram Temple.

troops around Quilon. With the Dalava's arrival on the scene the plan of the rebels entered a decisive phase. Their immediate target was the British cantonment at Quilon. But Lt. Col. Chalmers who commanded the subsidiary force there took prompt steps to meet the attack on the British cantonment. A good deal of fighting took place in which the British forces suffered heavy casualties. Records show that on the 12th and 13th of January 1809 the rebels launched several fierce attacks against the British forces at Quilon. But in the meantime reinforcements arrived for the British, and Velu Tampi's forces were obliged to retreat from the place for the time being. The Dalava's house in the town was itself seized by British troops. A large number of Travancore troops lost their lives in the battle fought at Quilon and its suburbs. Velu Tampi now resolved to acquaint the people with the true state of affairs in the country by issuing a proclamation and thus enlist their co-operation in the gigantic task he had undertaken. From Quilon he proceeded to Kundara and from there issued the famous Proclamation dated 1st Makaram 984 (16th January, 1809). In view of its historic importance the full text of the Kundara Proclamation is given below[1].

"Whereas it is highly desirable to impress in the minds of the nobles, Brahmans, officers of the State, Sudras, and all other classes of the nation, a clear idea of the nature and probable results of the measures now resolved upon as necessitated by the present critical occasion in which it is inevitable that Travancore cannot maintain itself unless its utmost energies are put forth, it is hereby promulgated:

"That, never has this State been yet disturbed with any troubles nor subjected to question during the several thousand years comprising the period from the foundation of Malabar and Travancore by Parasu Raman up to the close of Cheraman Perumal's reign, nor during the sovereignty of the succeeding Thripada Swaroopam Dynasty.

"That, the Maharaja who died in 933 M.E., foreseeing the evil days to come, and that his successor will not be able to keep the land, entrusted to their care safe from harm, made a gift of its, in due form (with flower and water) to Sree Padmanabha Swamy, and the country was to be governed by the succeeding Rajas as the representatives of Padmanabha Swamy. In keeping within such a position, they preferred the practice of religious rites, austerities, to the personal enjoyment of worldly pleasure, and were always

1. Quoted from V. Nagam Aiya, *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. I, pp. 434-436.

bent upon the welfare and happiness of the subjects; and in order that the virtues and benefits accruing from such observance may always continue unabated, they initiated several religious ceremonies and practices for securing divine favour, established Bhadradeepam, Murajapam, sathrams or feeding houses, etc. Every one knows that it is for these reasons that in the present Kaliyuga there is not a single country from the Himalayas down to Cape Comorin which can rival Travancore as a land of charity. When Mahomed Ali had subdued and established his power at Arcot, Trichinopoly and the Deccan, it was stipulated that Travancore should send him an annual Nuzoor of (6,000) six thousand Rupees and an elephant to preserve friendly relations with him, and the country has not been interfered with by any other power. While the land was thus in peace and tranquillity, two great powers appeared, Tippoo Sultan and the English East India Company. It was believed that of the two, the English East India Company was more to be relied on, and that they sould not betray their trust; and in view to secure their friendship and assistance a very long time ago, they were allowed to build a fort and to establish themselves at Anjengo, and this led to hostilities breaking out with Tippoo Sultan, but we have known to our cost how our trust was betrayed, and our friendliness taken advantage of to bring harm upon us by this very English nation, who, as is well known to the whole world, is unequalled for base ingratitude and treachery. Now see, what they have done. They gradually curtailed the power of the Nabob who gave them shelter and helped so much towards attaining their present importance, till they had destroyed his dynasty entirely and taken away his territories; next they laid hold of the neighbouring countries which were enjoying peace and comfort until at last the lights of their dwellings were extinguished, and themselves plunged into misery, and following up their treacherous inclination the English came over to Travancore: first, by craft, and then forcibly, they have taken steps to exterminate us from our land. We shall briefly mention here a few of the steps pursued by them; When Tippoo Sultan made war upon us, we sought their aid against him; they treacherously got out of us, taking advantage of our exigency, ten lacs of pagodas in return for the promised help. After this, partly by craft and partly by threats, they stipulated that we should pay them an annual subsidy of six lacs of Rupees promising at the same time that so long as Travancore and the English nation existed they would not ask for a chuckrum over and above the said sum, not interfere with any act, however unimportant of the Travancore Government and these terms were solemnly ratified in writing by the treaty of the year 968. While Travancore had been faithfully adhering to fulfil in all integrity the terms of the treaty, the English in violation of it, sent a Resident to reside here, and stationed three of their Regiments at Quilon, and like giving milk to a serpent, this Government had to build at its own cost barracks and dwelling houses for the men of the Regiments, and in addition to put up to this day with all the acts of violence practised by them. A little after, in Magaram 980 the English Government demanded that two lacs of Rupees should be annually paid, beyond the sum

stipulated before, and threatened in failure of this extra requisition being paid, to make war upon us, and actually brought down several pieces of cannon into different parts of the country. Seeing no other means of getting over the difficult position, the Government of His Highness yielded to the impending calamitous fate and paid the extra two lacs also. But the English Government were not satisfied even with all these concessions, and the point they next assumed reached the unreasonable and unwarrantable climax, of requiring the abolition of all religious and charitable institutions, and the disbanding of the armies of the country and payment to themselves of the money that would be saved thereby; it was required further that the Resident, Colonel Macaulay, should be consulted and communicated with in all matters connected with the Government of His Highness' territories. In reply, the English Government was respectfully informed that according to the constitution of this country these demands could not be complied with, and our humbling ourselves to the very ground was of no avail. The English Government was inexorable, as we have been always opposed to these measures, and had taken active steps against them; we got a letter Dhanu last from the English East India Company requesting us to resign our post and to quit Travancore, along with the whole of our family and some of the officials who had joined us, and to reside in British territory, and we were promised in the event of our complying with the request that every mark of respect and honour would be paid to us, the Resident, Colonel Macaulay, thereafter intending to introduce reforms, and practically administer the Government. We were at the same time informed that we should be the cause of war being declared, in case we delayed to agree to the conditions stated in the letter, the contents of which we were required to bring at once to the notice of his Highness the Maharaja. We did not hesitate to reply that we should not, even should our refusal cost our life, be guilty of such treason to our sovereign and country, and once for all spurned the proposals made to us. The Resident, Colonel Macaulay, thereupon and without having the slighest consideration or respect for the sovereign of Travancore or giving the least intimation, brought by the sea and landed a number of European soldiers to Quilon and shipped back all the European women and children that were there, with all their property, and unjustly commenced war with Travancore. It had never before been nor is it now our intention to break out into war with the English. But now that they have begun the war, if we do not adopt prompt measures in our defence or on gaining the first success, if we do not at once avail ourselves of them to follow up the victory, we should lose all advantages we had gained and the consequences would be that hardships would befall us such as not a single soul in this country would be able to bear and pass his days. We shall give a few instances of those hardships and miseries.

"It is the nature of the English nation to get possession of countries by treacherous means, and should they obtain ascendancy in Travancore, they will put their own guards in the palaces, Sircar

buildings, and the fort gates, destroy the royal seal, do away with honorific palanquins, and other distinguishing marks, suppress the Brahmanical communities and worship in pagodas, make monopolies of salt and every other thing, measure up and assert themselves absolute owners of waste lands, impose exorbitant taxes on paddy lands, cocoanut trees, etc., get low caste people to inflict heavy punishments for slight faults, put up crosses and Christian flags in pagoda, compel inter-marriages with Brahman women without reference to caste or creed, and practise all the unjust and unlawful things which characterize Kaliyuga.

"Let us therefore exert ourselves to keep off impending calamities such as those we have sketched above, and endeavour so far as lies in our power that no disparagement or discredit may be imputed to us in guarding our homes, the charitable institutions, and the manners and customs of our land. The rest, of course, we must leave to the divine will. These measures which we have enumerated are incumbent upon us to adopt to defend ourselves against the action taken by the English".

The Kundara Proclamation had its instantaneous effect. It helped to rally thousands of people from all over the country under Velu Tampi's banner. The Dalava's army now consisted of about 20,000 to 30,000 men and 18 guns and it was deployed mainly around Quilon. In order to keep the British troops confined to Quilon, the strategic places of Neendakara, Ayithil, Asramam, and Tatamoola were strongly garrisoned. On the 19th January 1809 there took place a decisive engagement between the Travancore forces and the British garrison at Quilon. Col. Chalmers divided his forces which consisted of one British regiment and three battalions of native Sepoys into two columns and inflicted heavy casualties on the Travancore army. In spite of the heroic resistance offered by the rebels, they were defeated and driven off the field leaving 700 slain and losing 15 pieces of artillery. The defeat at Quilon made Velu Tampi think in terms of concentrating his attention in the North. He sent a division of his army to Cochin to assist his friend and ally the Paliath Achan in capturing the place from the British. But the developments in the north turned out to be equally disappointing to the Dalava. The Paliath Achan was defeated by the British troops and he undertook to abandon his alliance with Velu Tampi and lend full support to the British in putting down the insurrection. Velu Tampi was, however, determined to fight to the last. The subsidiary force at Quilon was still engaged in several actions by the Nair troops. In the meantime the British army under Col. St. Leger entered Travancore through the Aramboli pass

and advanced into the interior. On the 19th February 1809 the forts of Udayagiri and Padmanabhapuram fell into their hands having been abandoned by the Nair troops. Col. St. Leger then advanced towards Trivandrum and encamped himself at Pappanamcode, three miles south-east of the capital. Having found his cause hopeless the ruler now sued for peace and issued orders for the capture of Velu Tampi and his men.

In the meantime the Dalava who had visited Trivandrum to pay his last respects to the ruler had already left the place and proceeded northwards. According to one school of thought he was proceeding to the hills of Kunnathur to save himself. But there is a strong tradition current in the place that Velu Tampi left Trivandrum and proceeded northwards in a last desperate bid to collect men and money for another struggle against the English. Whatever be the truth behind this tradition, it is clear that he did not succeed in organising another struggle. The last scenes of the Dalava's life were enacted in the house of the Potti of the Bhagavathi temple at Mannadi in the Kunnathur Taluk. The Raja's men under the leadership of Kariakkar Mallan Pillai and a Subedar surrounded the place with a view to capturing the fallen Dalava alive. But when the house was broken in they could find only Velu Tampi's corpse. The following story is told about the Dalava's tragic end. He decided to put an end to his life rather than fall into the hands of the enemy, and he ordered his brother to kill him. As the latter refused to commit fratricide, the Dalava himself plunged the dagger into his bosom and attempted suicide. Fearing that the self-inflicted wound might not prove fatal he called to his brother who was by his side to complete the work. This time the brother responded to the call and severed the head of the Dalava from the body with one stroke of the sword. Velu Tampi's body was removed from Mannadi to Trivandrum where it was exposed on a common gibbet. His brother was taken captive to Quilon and hanged in the presence of the 12th regiment, drawn out to witness the execution. The Dalava's house was razed to the ground and his relatives were transported to the Maldives[1].

1 Please also see the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 211-217 for further details about Velu Tampi.

Quilon after the rebellion.

On the 15th of March 1809 Ummini Tampi (Tampi Iravi) assumed the office of the Dewan. But even after the death of Velu Tampi and the beginning of the administration of the new Dewan the rebels continued to be in arms here and there in parts of the Quilon District. The British army had to go into action against them before order was finally restored. The Nair battalions were demobilised at the end of the rebellion and the defence of Travancore was entrusted solely to the British subsidiary force stationed at Quilon. In spite of the friendly relations established by him with the British, Ummini Tampi's administration was not successful. When Rani Gouri Lakshmi Bai came to the throne in 1810 Ummini Tampi was dismissed and Col. Munro who was British Resident in Travancore took charge of the office of the Dewan as well. The frustrated Ummini Tampi now resorted to intrigues against the Queen and her new Dewan. It was therefore resolved to remove him from Trivandrum to Quilon where it was hoped that the presence of the subsidiary force would prevent him from disturbing the peace. But troubles soon arose in Quilon where Tampi organised a conspiracy against some European officers of the Cantonment. The chief conspirators were discharged sepoys. The plan of the conspirators was to attack the English officers while at dinner, to set fire to the barracks at the same time, and thereafter, to loot the public treasury. The conspiracy was detected. Jamadar Sheik Hussain together with two Havildars and 26 men of the 14th regiment of whom 16 were Muslims and 10 Hindus were arrested on suspicion of their complicity in the conspiracy. They were tried by court martial and sentenced to death. They were either shot or hanged, the sentences being carried into execution at Quilon, Cannanore, Seringapatam, Trichinopoly, Vellore and St. Thomas Mount respectively. Ummini Tampi was arrested as the brain behind the conspiracy. He was tried by the court of the Travancore Government and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to banishment and he was removed to Nellore. From the period commencing with the Dewanship of Col. Munro (1811-1814) the Quilon District along with the rest of the Travancore State forged ahead in the field of administrative and social reform.

Government and Society in the early 19th century.

In order to understand clearly the significance of the great administrative and social changes that took place in

the 19th and 20th centuries, it is necessary that we should have a clear picture of Government and Society in Travancore towards the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th. The most significant change that took place in the political scene in South Kerala in the course of the 18th century was the disappearance of the old petty principalities which were quarrelling among themselves, and the emergence in their place of the modern centralised State of Travancore under Marthanda Varma. "Till the beginning of the 18th century", says Sir Madhava Rao, "the territory which now constitutes this State was mostly cut up into little principalities, each with a chief of its own, who had a favourite pagoda at his capital—a shrine with the splendour of which he regarded his fortunes as indissolubly bound up. When conquest welded the numerous little chiefships into one State, the pagoda at Trevendrum naturally acquired a predominant ascendancy, and other institutions of the kind had to take a more subordinate position".[1] The birth of the modern centralised state of Travancore and the establishment of royal authority in that State did not, however, usher in an era of liberal and progressive government. The form of government was still despotic with the king and his agents being almost held in dread by the common people. All authority was centralised in the Raja, and the officials at various levels exercised the powers delegated to them by him at his discretion. There was no independent judiciary. Officers who exercised executive functions also administered law and justice. The officials were corrupt and oppressive to a high degree, and bribes and pecuniary gratifications were expected everywhere.

The law of the land did not guarantee social equality and justice. Feudal principles still governed social relations. In spite of the centralisation of power in the hands of the king, the Brahmin clergy and Nair nobility held a dominant and privileged position in society. They freely oppressed the agriculturists of the land consisting of the Ezhavas, the Pulayas, and others. The Brahmins and the Nairs paid no land tax. No Brahmin could be sentenced to death, however heinous his crime. The administrators of law even abetted the perpetration of the grossest cruelties and crimes on the labouring classes and slaves who formed the bulk of the

1 Quoted in *Native Life in Travancore,* Samuel Mateer, p. 288.

population of the land. The penal code was characterised by extreme severity. Torture was resorted to in order to elicit confession. Even for ordinary offences like theft, killing of cows, etc. the most inhuman punishments were awarded. Krishna Pillai, a Sepoy and some others who took part in the mutiny of the Nair troops during the period when Velu Tampi was Dalava were tied to the feet of an elephant and torn asunder. Pachu Muttat, the earliest historian of modern Travancore, informs us that blowing from the mouth of a cannon, impaling and hanging, gouging out the eyes, and cutting off hands, nose and ears were the common punishments inflicted even for trifling offences. Trial by ordeal was also prevalent. Living conditions in the prisons were unsatisfactory. In fact, the prisons were little better than cages and there was also no separation of the sexes in them. The members of the backward communities were lawfully subjected to the most serious social disabilities and hardships. The role envisaged for them was only that of more hewers of wood and drawers of water. If they failed to discharge their age-long caste obligations and duties towards the superior castes, they were awarded the most drastic punishments. Fra Bartolomeo writing about 1780 says, "At Quilon I saw a native of the caste of the Shanars hanged on a gallow for having stolen three coconuts in the house of a Nayrr. The *corpus delicti* was suspended from his neck, in order that it might serve as a warning to all passengers."[1] Mateer records that in 1752 Devasahayam Pillai, a convert to Christanity, was "taken from village to village riding on a buffalo, daily beaten with eighty stripes, pepper rubbed in his wounds and nostrils, exposed to the sun, and had only stagnant water to drink".[2] Even if it may not be quite fair to make sweeping generalisations from these individual cases of barbarity, it is clear from contemporary events and records that punishments were quite inhuman and that law was not equalitarian.

Slavery in the most detestable form prevailed in the land, a considerable proportion of the population having been condemned to it. The masters were free to do anything with the slaves who were freely bought and sold like chattels. The slaves were denied such social amenities and privileges as keeping milch cows, using fine cloths, moving in conveyances,

1 Quoted by Mateer in his *Native Life in Travancore*, pp. 290-291.

2 *Native Life in Travancore*, Samuel Mateer, p. 291.

decorating their huts on marriage occasions, using metallic utensils etc. They were prohibited from taking to any profitable trade or vocation. It may also be mentioned in this connection that the ruler since very early days had the prerogative to sell into slavery persons of various castes who committed crimes which entitled them either to loss of caste or capital punishment. The members of the superior castes freely committed acts of murder, assault and robbery on the weak and helpless members of the lower castes. The latter were also denied the privilege of erecting large and tiled houses to live in. Those who aspired for such social privileges and amenities as the use of certain kinds of lamps, particular kinds of music, ornaments or conveyances, had to make large payments to the king who alone had the power to grant licenses for the enjoyment of such privileges and amenities. Inequitous and burdensome taxes which interfered with trade, industry and personal freedom were imposed on the members of the backward communities. A poll tax on backward communities was a favourite mode of raising revenue in those days. In 1754 a head tax was imposed on the Shanars to meet military expenditure, and in 1783 a poll tax was imposed on the Syrian Christians. Fees were levied on low caste marriages. There was a kind of house tax of one *fanam* for each hut which was levied from Parayas, Pallas and Shanars. The weaver had to pay tax for his loom (about a rupee per annum). There were taxes on oil mills, bows, palanquins, boats and nets, and the industries of goldsmiths, fishermen, etc. School masters, musicians, drummers, dyers and dancers had also to pay taxes. Special duties were collected on such occasions as Onam, Deepavali, harvest, royal marriages, birthdays, etc. To quote Mateer, "Everything at all taxable was availed of, and every special occasion made an excuse for squeezing the laborious classes of their hard earnings. They produced small revenue at the cost of great vexation, partaking often of the character of poll taxes and taxes on implements of industry, and the proceeds were wasted on Brahmans, temples and ceremonies".[1] Moreover, there was forced labour for government and temples. Among the compulsory duties of the backward communities may be mentioned cutting of grass for the horses, supply of fodder for state elephants, palm leaves for writing, oil lights and firewood and provisions for temples. They had also to guard *Sirkar* properties in

1 *Native Life in Travancore*, Samuel Mateer, p. 292.

several places and carry things for the *Sirkar* from place to place. They were compelled to work in the government forests for cutting down and transporting timber. Mateer describes the government and the society of the period in the following words "Narrow and short-sighted laws, exclusive legislation and oppressive monopolies effectually hindered the extension of trade, the growth of commerce, and the spread of agriculture, while barbarous caste restrictions produced disunion and national weakness. The use of the public highways was forbidden to outcastes and any one daring to pass on within polluting distance of a Nayar would be cut down at once. To secure immediate recognition of such classes they were required to be uncovered above the waist; shoes, umbrellas, fine cloth, and costly ornaments were interdicted to them. The holding of umbrellas was prohibited to all castes, except Brahmins, on public occasions, though the rains were pouring upon them. The proper salutation from a female to persons of rank was to uncover the bosom".[1]

Such was the condition of Travancore when Col. Munro assumed office of Dewan in 1811. In his report to the Madras Government dated 7th March 1818, Munro describes the contemporary state of affairs in the following language. "No description can produce an adequate impression of the tyranny, corruption and abuses of the system, full of activity and energy in everything mischievous, oppressive and infamous, but slow and dilatory to effect any purpose of humanity, mercy and justice. This body of public officers, united with each other on fixed principles of combination and mutual support, resented a complaint against one of their number, as an attack upon the whole. Their pay was very small, and never issued from the treasury, but supplied from several authorised exactions made by themselves. They offered, on receiving their appointment, large nuzzers to the Raja, and had afterwards to make presents, on days of public solemnity, that exceeded the half of their pay. They realised, in the course of two or three years, large sums of money and were generally subjected to a complete confiscation of their property for the benefit of the State. The Raja, therefore, imposed no restraint on their capacity, aware that their plunder would be transferred to his own treasury. Nor does it appear that this consideration had any effect in checking their extortions.

1 *Native Life in Travancore,* Samuel Mateer, p. 291.

They calculated upon being able to conceal their property during their lives, and felt little concern as to the mode of its disposal after their death. On the part of the people, complaint was useless, redress hopeless, they had only one remedy, and that was bribery. This practice was universal, and it was one of the melancholy circumstances in the situation of the people, that one of the greatest evils was necessarily resorted to as a good, to mitigate the still more intolerable grievances of injustice and oppression. Innocence was protected, justice obtained, and right secured by bribes. There were also still more efficacious means of injury, and their universal use produced an extraordinary spirit of avarice in the country; for every man endeavoured to have a secret hoard of money, as the best protection of his liberty, property and life."[1]

Administrative and Social changes in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In the background of the social conditions described above we may briefly review the most important administrative and social changes that took place in the 19th and 20th centuries. It may be stated at the outset that these changes were introduced in the interests of the whole State of Travancore. But as the Quilon District has during this period no history of its own apart from that of Travancore, we may briefly note these changes along with those which are of particular concern to the District only. The beginnings of progressive administration and social reform in Travancore may be associated with the Dewanship of Col. Munro (1811-1814). He built the Residency at Quilon in order to have effective personal supervision over the conduct of business at the *Huzur Cutchery*. The *Cutchery* was thoroughly reorganised and the beginnings of the secretariat system were laid. Cases of corruption were promptly detected and the offenders severely punished. A sound system of audit and accounts was introduced. A warehouse was established at Quilon and it was to be managed by a staff of officers and guarded by a detachment of military[2]. Many petty and oppressive taxes like house tax, net tax etc., were abolished. This measure gave considerable relief to the

1 Quoted in *Travancore State Manual,* Vol. II, T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 506-507.

2 Similar warehouses were established at Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum and Mavelikara and other parts of the State.

agricultural classes. The poll tax on Ezhavas, Mukkuvas and Parayas was done away with. Forced labour was also abolished. By a Royal Proclamation of 1812 the purchase and sale of all slaves other than those attached to the soil such as the Kuravas, Parayas, Pallas etc. were prohibited Munro also evolved a sound system of judicial administration. Courts of law were established in important centres of the State. Trial by ordeal was prohibited and every attempt was made to mitigate the rigours of the penal code. He took away from revenue officers their military and judicial functions and provided for revenue complaints being heard by a special court. Munro also took a special interest in the work of the Christian Missions in Travancore. Even after his retirement from the post of Dewan in 1814 he continued to take keen interest in the problems of the people. During a visit paid by Munro to Kallada in Vrischigam 994 (November-December 1819) to inspect the damage caused by a flood he ordered the cutting of the canal that separates the Munro Island from the main land. It was also during the period of his Residency that the beginnings of the Trivandrum-Quilon canal were made. It is seen from a *Neet* (Communication with the royal Sign Manual) of 991 Kollam Era (1816 A.D.) that the construction of the canal had already been begun.[1]

During the reign of Gouri Parvati Bai (1815-1829) the pace of social and administrative reform was quickened. During this period Quilon was for some time the headquarters of the Dewan. Venkita Rao who was Dewan from 1822 to 1827 wanted to locate his headquarters at a central place from where he could make himself accessible to people from all parts of the country, and the choice fell on Quilon. The Dewan took a deep interest in the improvement of irrigation facilities and means of communication. In 1824 he sanctioned the construction of the canal from Paravur to Quilon. The reign of Gouri Parvati Bai witnessed the introduction of several social reforms calculated to give relief to the less fortunate and less privileged sections of society. Several irksome cesses that were levied from Ezhavas, Shanars and Mukkuvans not only by the representatives of the aristocracy but also by the professional leaders of their own communities were abolished. Orders were issued prohibiting the impressment of labour to carry loads for Government without payment. All supplies

1 *Kerala Society Papers*, Series 8, p. 128.

made and services rendered by the people to the *Sirkar* were to be paid for at prescribed rates. The officers of the State were placed under strict disciplinary rules and those found guilty of corruption or unnecessary harassment of the people were punished. The Rani issued a Proclamation allowing the Nairs, Ezhavas and other communities for the first time to use ornaments of gold and silver without paying the customary fees to the ruler. The poll tax levied on several castes was repealed. All persons irrespective of caste and status were allowed by a royal proclamation to have tiled roofs for their houses. The obstacles to trade were removed by the abolition of export duties on rice, paddy and other cereals. Certain duties levied on boats were also done away with. Merchants were allowed to carry on their trade with greater freedom. There was also a reform of the coinage during this period. Adequate supply of small change was ensured by allowing private traders to have their bullion minted in the Government Mint at Quilon with certain safeguards against counterfeiting. Rani Gouri Parvathi Bai also rendered help to the Christian Missions to carry on their work in the State. Lands were given for church sites and timber for the erection of buildings. The Church Mission Society, Kottayam, got a tract of land in Kallada near Quilon to encourage education among local Christians. This tract was named by the Society Munro Island in token of their gratitude for the help rendered by Munro to the Mission in Travancore. Mention may also be made of the fact that in 1823 Tangasseri was obtained on lease by Travancore from the English East India Company for a period of 24 years.

During the reign of Swati Tirunal (1829-1847) Quilon ceased to be the seat of the *Huzur Cutchery*. The *Cutchery* and other public offices were shifted to Trivandrum in 1830 and located in the vicinity of the Palace within the Fort in order to ensure the expeditious disposal of work. The period also was the beginnings of English education. When the Sirkar Free School was opened at Trivandrum in 1834, it was decided to start a few District Schools also as feeders of the central institution. One of these District Schools was located at Quilon. During the reign of Uthram Tirunal Marthanda Varma (1847-1860) were issued the famous Proclamations of September 1853 and June 1855 which put an end to the institution of slavery in Travancore. The measure was a great blessing to the people of the District as well. In 1859

Travancore State was divided for administrative purposes into four Divisions, namely, Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum, Quilon and Shertallai. Thus towards the end of the reign of Uthram Tirunal Marthanda Varma, Quilon emerged as the headquarters of a Division. The progress of the previous reigns was kept up under Ayilyam Tirunal Rama Varma (1860-1880)[1] and Visakhom Tirunal Rama Varma (1880-1885). The *Administration Report of Travancore* for the year 1040 Kollam Era (1864-65) contains an astonishing list of 110 distinct taxes that were abolished in that year to the great relief of the poorer classes.

During the reign of Sri Mulam Tirunal (1885-1924) several measures were taken which benefited particularly the people of the Quilon District and contributed to their welfare. Two years after his accession was opened the Victoria Hospital for Women at Quilon in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria[2]. In 1907 an Agricultural Demonstration Farm was opened at Quilon. Irrigation works in the Quilon Division were given special attention and members of the Legislature from the Division were requested to frame a scheme of public works for the Division. The District was connected with other parts of the State by a well-laid system of roads. The most significant landmark in the progress of the District during this period was the opening of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway (1904). The average cost per mile for this railway was 2 lakhs of Rupees. It was also during this reign of Sri Mulam Tirunal that Quilon was declared a conservancy town and its sanitary administration was entrusted to the Dewan Peishkar assisted by two non-officials. In 1892 when the Town Conservancy and Improvement Act was passed a Town Improvement Committee was set up for Quilon in pursuance of the

1 It may be mentioned in this connection that it was during the reign of Ayilyam Tirunal that the title of 'Maharaja' was officially conferred on the rulers of Travancore by the British Crown in 1866 (Vide. *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, by T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 607). Only since then has the title been a hereditary distinction of the Travancore Royal House. But in referring to Marthanda Varma and his successors the term 'Maharaja' has often been used in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer* and also in this volume. It may be made clear that in doing so the popular usage has been followed without taking the legal aspect into consideration.

2 The Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Trivandrum was also built in commemoration of this event.

provisions of the Act. The limits of Quilon town were enlarged in 1900.

An event of local importance that took place during the regency of Maharani Setu Lakshmi Bai (1924-1931) was the resumption by the Travancore Government of the Munro Island near Quilon. It has already been stated earlier that this tract of land was granted to the Church Mission Society, Kottayam, during the reign of Rani Gouri Parvati Bai in order to enable them to help in the spread of education. The Society had allotted the land to numerous ryots in plots of varying extent. There were frequent disputes between the Society and the tenants as a result of the frequent transfers of lands from one hand to another. The Society could collect the dues from the tenants only after protracted litigation in courts. This caused considerable inconvenience and expense to both parties. To obviate this difficulty the Munro Island was taken over by the Government of Travancore in 1930 from the Church Mission Society and constituted into a *pakuthi* of the Quilon Taluk. It was agreed that the Society should be given an annual amount of Rs. 5,000 as compensation.

During the reign of Sri Chitra Tirunal Bala Rama Varma who ascended the throne in November 1931, the Quilon District along with the rest of the State made further progress. One of the most important measures of the Government during this period which produced a striking impression on the people in the District as elsewhere was the promulgation of the Temple Entry Proclamation in 1936. The period also witnessed the beginnings of the steady industrialisation of the District. The Government established factories of their own in various parts of the State. The Ceramic Factory opened at Kundara in 1940 was the most important of the factories established in the District. The Punalur Paper Mills and the Match Factory at Thenmala may also be mentioned in this connection.

Social Reform Movements.

Since the early decades of this century the Quilon District felt the impact of several movements for social reforms. One of the most important of such movements was aimed at the abolition of the *Marumakkathayam* law of inheritance among the Nairs which ended in the enactment of the Travancore Nair Regulations of 1912 and 1925. It was actively sponsored by the Nair Service Society (N.S.S.), the representative organisation of the Nair community, but it had its repurcussions on

the other communities as well and led to similar legislative enactments affecting the Ezhavas, the Nanjanad Vellalas, the Kshatriyas etc.[1] In the meantime the demand for temple entry started by the Indian National Congress also grew into a great movement in Travancore and found concrete expression in the Vaikom Satyagraha (1924). One of the prominent leaders of the movement was T. K. Madhavan who exercised a powerful influence on the people of this District and large sections of the Hindu community of Quilon came out in open support of the demand for temple entry. The social reform movements initiated by Chattampi Swamikal (1854-1924) and Sri Narayana Guru (1856-1928) also made considerable inroads into this District. The campaign for the abolition of antiquated rituals and ceremonies like *Talikettukalyanam, Tirandukuli* etc. among the Ezhavas achieved a large measure of success thanks to the efforts of social workers who drew their inspiration from Sri Narayana Guru. The movement also received the active support of the Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana (S.N.D.P.) Yogam, the representative organisation of the Ezhava community. Such prominent Ezhava leaders of the District as Paravur Kesavan Asan (1869-1917) and C. V. Kunjuraman (1871-1949) were also associated with the movement. Both these leaders through their speeches and writings attacked the old social order and exhorted the members of their community to give up all the old irrational practices which were the cause of their social and moral degradation. Kesavan Asan started the newspaper *Sujananandini* from Paravur in 1891 and C. V. Kunjuraman the *Kerala Kaumudi* from Mayyanad in 1911. Both these newspapers spread Sri Narayana Guru's message of social reform among the Ezhavas in all parts of the District. At the same time a similar movement for social reform was afoot among the Nairs also under the auspices of the N.S.S. One of the notable leaders of this District who played a leading role in the movements for social refom sponsored by the N.S.S. was K. G. Parameswaran Pillai. He founded the newspaper *Malayalarajyam* in 1929 and secured the services of C. V. Kunjuraman, the Ezhava leader, as its Editor. The paper devoted itself to the cause of social reform among the Hindus and it is even today an important institution in Quilon.

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1 Please see also the section on "Property and Inheritance" in Chapter III.

Early activities of the Indian National Congress.

The District played an important part in the political agitations of recent times. The Indian National Congress had its active supporters in the District even from very early days. The name of K. Kumar stands out prominent in this connection. He was an ardent Congress worker since the days of the Nagpur Flag Satyagraha of 1923. In view of the official Congress policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Indian States, there was no organised political activity for long in this District under the auspices of the Congress. Nevertheless, the *Swadeshi* movement and the demand for temple entry sponsored by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi won staunch supporters from all progressive sections of the population.

Nivarthana Movement.

Quilon came to the forefront as the nerve centre of political activity during the period of the Abstention or *Nivarthana* movement in the early thirties of this century. The most distinguished leaders of the *Nivarthana* movement such as C. Kesavan and T. M. Varghese hailed from this District. In order to have a correct understanding of the role of Quilon in the *Nivarthana* agitation and the political movements that followed, it is necessary for us to have a proper insight into the social and political forces at work in Travancore in the early part of this century. Till three decades ago membership of the Legislature and public services was the monopoly of the *Savarnas* or Upper Caste Hindus like the Brahmins, the Kshatriyas and the Nairs who constituted only a minority of the population. The bulk of the Hindu community which consisted of the Ezhavas, the Harijans, etc. was excluded from membership in the Legislature and public service. The Christians and the Muslims who too constituted important segments of the population of the State were denied the privilege of representation in the Legislature and public services in proportion to their numerical strength. Since 1888 when the Legislative Council first came into existence in Travancore the number of members elected to that body from among such communities as the Ezhavas, the Muslims, the Christians, etc. was negligible.[1] The reason for this was that the qualification

1 For a detailed account of the constitutional reforms introduced in Travancore see *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, p. 227.

for vote was based on the payment of an annual tax on property. This property qualification restricted the franchise right to members of the advanced communities like the Nairs with the result that the Legislature was not truly representative of the people the vast majority of whom belonged to the backward communities. At the same time the Nairs who constituted the bulk of the tax payers obtained seats in the Legislature very much in excess of what they were entitled to on a strict population basis. This was a distortion of the representative principle. For a correct understanding of the full import and significance of the constitutional position in Travancore till 1931 the community-wise particulars of the strength of the electorate in 1931 and the number of seats secured in the Sri Mulam Assembly by each community at each of the elections between 1922 and 1931 may be helpful. The particulars are given below:

Community-wise break-up of the Electorate in Travancore (1931)

Community		*Population in 1931*	*No. of voters*
Total Population	..	5,095,973	145,546
Hindus	..	3,134,888	96,414
Nairs	..	868,411	52,936
Ezhavas	..	869,863	12,163
Christians	..	1,604,475	40,844
Muslims	..	353,274	8,288

Number of seats secured by each community in the Sri Mulam Assembly (1922-1931)

	1922	1925	1928	1931
Total number of elected seats in the Assembly	23	23	23	23
Christians	7	7	6	4
Ezhavas	0	0	0	0
Muslims	0	0	1	0
Nairs	12	13	14	15
Other Caste Hindus	4	3	2	3
Other Backward Communities	0	0	0	1

Under such circumstances there arose the demand for the abolition of property qualification and introduction of adult franchise. The demand was most persistent from among the Ezhavas, the Muslims and some sections of the Christian community. They clamoured for communal electorates or reservation of seats for particular communities in the joint electorates in proportion to their numerical strength. The demands were, however, not acceded to by the Government. Matters came to a decisive stage when His Highness Sri Chitra Tirunal introduced the Legislative Reforms Act in 1932. The provisions of the Act did not satisfy the aspirations of the backward communities as it sought to perpetuate the property qualification for franchise. The apprehension that the Nairs and other High Caste Hindus who constituted the largest body of tax payers in the State would continue to gain seats in the Legislature very much in excess of what might fall to them on a strictly population basis was confirmed by the provisions of the Act. The passing of the Act was the signal for the beginning of a state-wide agitation for reservation of seats to different communities, sects and sub-sects strictly in proportion to population.

The dissatisfied sections of the Ezhava, Christian and Muslim communities now joined together and formed the *All Travancore Samyukta Rashtreeya Samiti*. A meeting of the Samiti was held in the L.M.S. Hall at Trivandrum on December 17, 1932 and decided to submit a memorial to the Dewan incorporating their demands. Neither the Memorial nor the informal negotiations that followed it had, however, the desired effect. At another meeting of the *Samyukta Rashtreeya Samiti* held at the same place on January 25, 1933 under the presidency of E. J. John the momentous decision was taken that the Ezhava, Christian and Muslim communities should abstain from the reformed Legislature. Thus was born the *Nivarthana* or Abstention agitation. The most important leaders of the agitation were C. Kesavan, N. V. Joseph and P. K. Kunju. The *Samyukta Rashtreeya Samiti* now transformed itself into the *All Travancore Samyukta Rashtreeya Congress* or the Joint Political Congress. The leaders of the Joint Political Congress demanded representation in the Legislature and public services for all communities in proportion to their numerical strength as well as the introduction of adult franchise and responsible Government in the State. They carried on widespread agitation against the new constitutional

reforms. The S.N.D.P. Yogam actively identified itself with the agitation, and under its auspices a meeting of the All Travancore Ezhava Political League had been held at Quilon on July 31, 1932 with C. V. Kunjuraman in the chair. Resolutions were passed at the meeting requesting the Government to reserve seats for the Ezhavas in the Legislature, and introduce the system of adult franchise in elections. It was also decided to boycott elections to the Legislature till the demands were met. In the meantime the Joint Political Congress carried its message to every nook and corner of the State, and the agitation gathered momentum. One of the highlights of the agitation was the famous speech delivered by C. Kesavan at the meeting of the Joint Political Congress held at Kozhencherry on Medam 28, 1110 (11th May, 1935) with George Joseph in the chair. The speech created a sensation and C. Kesavan was arrested on Edavam 24, 1110 (7th June 1935) and tried for sedition. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment and payment of a fine of Rs. 500. The arrest of C. Kesavan only intensified the agitation and the Government was eventually forced to accept all the demands of the Abstentionists.

The appointment of a Public Service Commissioner was announced by the Government in 1935 with a view to ensuring fair representation for all communities in the public services. The services in Travancore were divided into three divisions, the higher, the intermediate and the lower. In the higher division comprising of all appointments carrying an initial salary of Rs. 150 or more per mensem, efficiency was declared the primary consideration and recruitment was to be made on the basis of the results of a civil service examination. But a proportion of the appointments was to be given by promotions from among the deserving officers of the intermediate division and another proportion, a smaller one, was reserved for the communities which failed to get into the civil service by competition or promotion. In the intermediate division 60 per cent of the appointments were to be made on the basis of efficiency while for the remaining 40 per cent the principle of selection to be followed was declared as "efficiency combined with preference on a communal basis". The communities to which preference was to be given were specified. As far as the lower division was concerned, recruitment was to be made on a communal basis by the adoption of a system of rotation.

Communities whose strength was approximately two per cent of the total population were recognised as separate entities for purposes of recruitment. It may be noted that some of the departments like Military, Devaswom and Public Works were exempted from the operation of these principles. However, the reform gave general satisfaction to the backward communities.

The whole question regarding the representation of various communities in the Legislature was also re-examined. Franchise was widened by reducing the property qualification and electorates were reconstituted by providing for multiple seats. A specific number of seats was reserved for the Christian, the Ezhava and the Muslim communities in the general constituencies in order to secure better representation for them in the Legislature. The Ezhavas got eight seats in the Sri Mulam Assembly and two in the Sri Chitra State Council, and the Muslim and Latin Christians three each in the Assembly. A new expedient was also devised under which even in constituencies with plural seats one voter was allowed to exercise only a single vote. These changes were announced by the Government in a communique issued in August 1936. The changes introduced led to a total reduction in the number of Nair representatives in the Legislature and ensured better representation for Ezhavas and other backward communities.

Another salutary measure of reform was the famous Temple Entry Proclamation issued by H. H. The Maharaja of Travancore on Thulam 27, 1112 (November 12, 1936) on the advice of his Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer. It may be mentioned in this connection that when the *Nivarthana* agitation was at its height the Ezhavas and other backward communities among the Hindus even threatened to leave the Hindu fold *en masse* and become converts to Christianity. This move had been sponsored by no less important a person than C. V. Kunjuraman and it had caught the imagination of large sections of people among the Ezhavas. The Temple Entry Proclamation which threw open temples to all Hindus irrespective of caste served to stem the rising tide of this movement by giving a fresh message of hope and good cheer to the down-trodden sections of the Hindu community. It may not be quite wrong in regarding the Temple Entry Proclamation as one of the salutary results of the *Nivarthana* agitation.

To resume our narrative of the course of the *Nivarthana* agitation, elections to the reformed Legislature were held in Medam 1112 (April-May, 1937) on the basis of the franchise reform announced earlier. All the eight Ezhava candidates who stood for election to the Sri Mulam Assembly and the two candidates who stood for the Sri Chitra State Council as the nominees of the S.N.D.P. Yogam won in the contest. The Ezhavas thus got elected to the Travancore Legislature for the first time in its history. In other constituencies too the Christian and Muslim candidates of the Joint Political Congress came out successful mainly with the help of the Ezhava voters. One of the key contests of the election took place in the Pathanamthitta constituency. Here K. Kumar, the veteran Congressman, opposed T. M. Varughese, the nominee of the Joint Political Congress. T. M. Varghese who had the support of the S.N.D.P. Yogam won the contest and became the the leader of the Joint Political Congress Party in the Sri Mulam Assembly. He was later elected as the Deputy President of the Sri Mulam Assembly, the highest honour which a non-official member could have aspired for in those days. Political developments, however, compelled T. M. Varghese to give up this coveted post. C. Kesavan who had by this time been released from jail was being given public receptions all over the State. At one such reception held at Ambalapuzha, T. M. Varghese welcomed him "on behalf of the 51 lakhs of people of Travancore". The action of Varghese provoked the wrath of the Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer. At the latter's instance a no-confidence motion was moved against the Deputy President at the next session of the Sri Mulam Assembly. The official members of the Assembly who had remained neutral at the time of the election of T. M. Varghese as Deputy President now voted for the motion, and he was removed from office. The episode had a tremendous impact on the public mind, and shortly after T. M. Varghese introduced a motion in the Sri Mulam Assembly urging upon the Government to take early steps to introduce responsible Government in Travancore under the aegis of His Highness the Maharaja. The motion was talked out. It was in the course of the discussions on this motion that the Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer made the famous statement that the introduction of responsible Government in the State was not possible in the context without doing violence to the treaty obligations entered into between the ruler of the State and the Paramount power.

The question of responsible Government had now become an issue of paramount importance and all other issues receded into the background. The original demands of the Joint Political Congress having been met in full, its leaders wound up their organisation, and founded a more broad based one called the Travancore State Congress, the objective of which was to secure for the people of Travancore responsible Government on the basis of universal adult franchise. The new organisation was formed in February, 1938 at a meeting of prominent political leaders held at Trivandrum with C. V. Kunjuraman in the chair. Pattam A. Thanu Pillai was elected as the first President of the Travancore State Congress. The new party had the support of all castes and communities in the State.

It may be appropriate in this context to discuss the true import and significance of the *Nivarthana* agitation. Its sponsors had only a limited objective in that they wanted to break up the monopoly of political power enjoyed by the High Caste Hindus, particularly the Nairs, and to secure for the backward communities their legitimate rights and privileges as members of the body politic. Consequently at its height the agitation accentuated communal tension and gave rise to conflicts between various communities in the State. Nevertheless, it was a truly popular agitation in which large masses of people were involved. It may be noted that though the demands of the movement were ostensibly communal, they arose from the legitimate grievances of large sections of people. This made the agitation a popular movement for the achievement of the legitimate political and civic rights of the less privileged sections of the community. Moreover, it also provided the first occasion for representatives of diverse communities like the Muslims, the Christians and the Hindus to join together on a common platform to ventilate their common grievances and fight for their common rights. Above all, the *Nivarthana* movement marked the end of the old era of constitutional agitation and the beginning of the new era of direct action in the political history of Travancore. In fact, it was the first organised political agitation which the Government of the State had to contend with, and as such it was of historic importance. The agitation for responsible government in Travancore was closely modelled after the *Nivarthana* agitation, and the Travancore State Congress itself was born out of the Joint Political Congress.

Agitation for Responsible Government.

With the founding of the Travancore State Congress in February 1938 the agitation for responsible government in Travancore started in full swing.[1] C. Kesavan and T. M. Varghese, the leaders of the erstwhile Joint Political Congress, were among the prominent leaders of the Travancore State Congress also. The State Congress launched a widespread campaign of civil disobedience in Travancore with effect from the 26th August 1938. The Government decided to put down the agitation with an iron hand. All the prominent Congress leaders of this District including C. Kesavan and T. M. Varghese were arrested along with their colleagues from other parts of the State. A public meeting held in Quilon to protest against the repressive measures of the Government was broken up by the police. The infuriated mob pelted stones and set fire to the State Transport buses which were plying *en route*. This was followed by police firing and a few persons were killed. The Karunagapally Taluk was one of the strongholds of the agitation in the Quilon District. Disturbances broke out at such places as Kadakkal, Kallara and Pangode. The excited mob attacked Police Stations and blocked communications by felling down trees along the main public roads. At the height of the agitation the civil administration practically broke down in several parts of this District. However, the Government intensified their repressive measures and put down the agitation. In November 1938 during the birthday celebration of the Maharaja the Government withdrew the ban on the State Congress and released its leaders unconditionally. The State Congress eventually suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi. Its leaders thereafter decided to concentrate their immediate attention on the task of strengthening the organisation. Early in 1939 elaborate preparations were being made by the State Congress to launch a new movement of civil disobedience with effect from March. But before it could formally launch the agitation the Government arrested all the top Congress leaders as a precautionary measure. In the meantime, Mahatma Gandhi advised the State Congress to drop all plans of direct action. The loyal Congress leaders who were outside the prison met and formally withdrew the proposed campaign in response to Gandhiji's advice. These political developments dealt a heavy blow to the

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1 For a detailed account of the agitation for responsible government in Travancore see the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 235-244.

prestige of the Congress organisation and all activities under its auspices came to a stand-still. The only notable event of the period was the annual session of the State Congress held at Karunagapally (1939).

Recent Political Developments.

During the period of the Second World War (1939-45) there was no serious political agitation in this Distrct or anywhere in the erstwhile Travancore State. At the end of the war political consciousness reasserted itself and the agitation for responsible Government started again under the auspices of the State Congress. The advent of Indian Independence in August 1947 quickened the pace of the constitutional developments in Travancore. The movement for "Independent Travancore" initiated by the Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer met with an inglorious end and the first popular ministry headed by Pattom A. Thanu Pillai was installed in office at Trivandrum on the 24th March 1948. The Quilon District had the unique distinction of having two of its distinguished leaders as the only other two members of this ministry, viz., T. M. Varghese and C. Kesavan. The Pattom Ministry fell in October 1948. There have been since then many ministerial changes in Trivandrum, but both C. Kesavan and T. M. Varghese continued to play their part in the politics of the State for some time more. The former was Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin for a short period in 1951-52, while the latter was for a term the Speaker of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly and also a leading member of successive State Cabinets. The exigencies of State politics eventually compelled both these leaders to retire from active public life.

The recent political history of Quilon and of Kerala is also associated with some other prominent leaders thrown up by the Congress movement in this District. Among these may be mentioned Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai, N. Sreekantan Nair and R. Sankar. Sanku Pillai who hails from Karunagapally played a leading part in the agitation for responsibe Government in Travancore. He was also the President of the Travancore-Cochin Provincial Congress Committee for some time, but later he left the Congress party and joined the ranks of the Praja Socialists. N. Sreekantan Nair represented one of the extremist sections in the Travancore State Congress in the days of the agitation for responsible Government. He left the Congress organisation and joined the Indian Socialist Party in 1946. In

1947 along with some of his colleagues he founded the Kerala Socialist Party (K.S.P.). Subsequently he left the K.S.P. also and organised under his leadership a branch of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (R.S.P.) of India which still commands considerable following among the industrial labourers of Quilon District. While the R.S.P. has consistently opposed all the Congress Governments in the State in league with the Communist Party of India, it sided with the Congress and other political parties in bringing about the overthrow of the Communist Government which ruled over Kerala from April 1957 to July 1959. But it has since then reverted to the old policy of opposition to the Congress in alliance with the Communist Party.[1]

R. Sankar who is the most prominent of the present Congress leaders from this District has played a leading role in shaping the recent political history of the State. He came into the Congress organisation in the early days of the agitation for responsible Government in Travancore and was the General Secretary of the Travancore State Congress from 1940 to 1944. He was also actively associated with the S.N.D.P. Yogam, being its General Secretary for several years, and in this capacity played a leading part in founding the Sri Narayana College, Quilon, and allied educational institutions which stand out as landmarks in the educational progress of the District. Sankar was elected as a Congress member of the Travancore State Legislature in 1948 and of the Indian Constituent Assembly in 1949. At a later stage he left the Congress and along with Mannath Padmanabhan, the N.S.S. leader, organised the Hindu Maha Mandalam with the object of bringing the Nairs, the Ezhavas and other Hindu communities under one banner in order to counteract the alleged Christian predominance in the State Congress. The new organisation which held a mammoth convention at Quilon in May 1950 was active for some time, but it did not take root in the body politic of the State. R. Sankar thereupon returned to the Congress fold and became one of its active leaders. He was the President of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee at the time of the agitation for the overthrow of the Communist Government in Kerala in June-July 1959. In the General Elections (1960) he was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly from the Cannanore constituency

1. A detailed account of the origin and growth of the Communist Party in Travancore will be given in the *Alleppey District Gazetteer.*

(Cannanore District) and was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister in the Congress-P.S.P coalition Government formed by Pattom A. Thanu Pillai in February 1960. With the exit of Pattom A. Thanu Pillai from State politics in September 1962 consequent upon his appointment as the Governor of the Punjab R. Sankar was sworn in as Chief Minister of Kerala.

Cultural Contributions of the District.

We may conclude our study with a brief survey of the cultural contributions of the District. Quilon has enriched the cultural heritage of Kerala in many ways. It has made notable contributions in the fields of learning, literature and art. As the capital of Venad, Quilon was in the ancient and early medieval periods a great centre of learning and culture, and it reached the heights of its intellectual eminence in the days of Ravi Varma Kulasekhara (1299-1311). Under Ravi Varma, Quilon attracted scholars of distinction from all parts of South India. Among the notable poets who lived here during the period were Samudrabandha and Kavibhooshana. Ravi Varma Kulasekhara himself is credited with the authorship of the Sanskrit drama *Pradyumnabhyudayam*.

The 14th century A. D. was a period of great literary activity. During this period were produced two works of outstanding literary and historical value, viz., *Lilathilakam* and *Unnunelisandesam*. *Leelatilakam* is a Sanskrit work which deals with Malayalam grammar and contains quotations from many old works which have since been lost. It is divided into eight chapters called *Silpas*. *Unnuneelisandesam* is the earliest *Sandesakavya* in the Malayalam language written in imitation of Kalidasa's *Meghaduta*. Its theme is a message (*sandesa*) sent by a lover from Trivandrum in the South to his lady love at Kaduthuruthi in the North which was at that time the capital of the Vadakkumkur ruling family.

The District has made its most significant contribution to *Kathakali* art and literature. The credit for having invented the art of *Kathakali* in the form of *Ramanattam* goes to Kottarakara Thampuran[1]. According to tradition the Thampuran

1. The date of Kottarakara Thampuran is a disputed question. Though there is a view that he lived in the 7th century Kollam Era (15th to the 16th centuries A.D.), Ullur S. Parameswara Iyer assigns him to the first half of the 9th century Kollam Era (17th to the 18th centuries A. D.). *Kerala Sahityacharitram*, Vol. III, Ullur S. Parameswara Iyer, p. 99.

requested the Zamorin of Calicut to send his troupe of artists to the Southern parts to enact *Krishnanattam*. On the Zamorin's refusal to comply with the request the Kottarakara Thampuran invented a new kind of play, and called it *Ramanattam* as distinct from *Krishnanattam*, the story of Rama being the theme of his play. He composed a regular *Attakatha* in Malayalam for the purpose of staging *Kathakali*. He divided the story of the *Ramayana* into eight parts and composed the work in such a way that each of the parts was sufficient for a night's performance. The eight parts are (1) *Putrakameshti*, (2) *Sitaswayamvaram*, (3) *Vichinnabhishekam*, (4) *Kharavadhom*, (5) *Balivijayam*, (6) *Thoranayudham*, (7) *Setubandhanam* and (8) *Yudham*. The Raja also improved *Krishnanattam* by substituting Malayalam for Sanskrit, and laid the foundation of a new type of histrionic literature in Malayalam which was to be enriched in later years by some of the finest works in the language.

One of the most celebrated literary figures of the District in recent times was Paravur K. C. Kesava Pillai (1868-1913). He was a gifted poet, prose writer, and dramatist. His *Markandeyacharitham* is a contribution to *Kathakali* literature. He inaugurated in 1904 the musical play in Malayalam through his work *Sadarama*. In his drama *Lakshmikalyanam*, Kesava Pillai directs his attention to some of the social evils of upper class society such as superstitions and snobbishness. *Raghavamadhavam* and *Vikramorvaseeyam* are two of his other famous dramas. He was also a profound Sanskrit scholar. His *Keralavarmavilasam* is an important Sanskrit work which deals with the life of the author of the *Mayurasandesam*. His *Keraleeya Bhasha Narayaneeyam* is a Malayalam rendering of Melpathur's *Narayaneeyam*. Kesava Pillai's *Kesaveeyam* is one of the *Mahakavyas* written in Malayalam. His *Angala Samrajyam* is a Malayalam translation of the original Sanskrit work written by A. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Thampuran and deals with the history of English supremacy in India. Kesava Pillai was also a gifted composer and he wrote the *Sangeetha Malika* which is an exposition in verse of the fundamentals of the science of music. His songs numbering more than a hundred entitle him to a place of honour in the history of Kerala music.

Paravur Kesavan Asan (1869-1917) from whom K. C. Kesava Pillai took his first lessons in Sanskrit was also a versatile literary figure of this District. He was a vigorous journalist and a prose writer in Malayalam. As stated earlier, he started

the newspaper *Sujananandini* from Paravur in 1891. The Asan was also well versed in *Ayurveda, Jyotisha, Vyakarana* and *Tharka*. Among his early works may be mentioned *Pathalaramayanam* *Attakatha, Pathivrutadharmam Kilipattu* and *Kalyanasaugandhikam Ammanapattu*. *Sarachandrika*, the most important of his works, is a contribution to the study of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

E. V. Krishna Pillai (1894-1938) popularly known as "E. V". was another literary celebrity of the Quilon District in recent times. He is one of the few writers in Malayalam who have made their mark in the field of humour and satire. He is the author of several short stories, novels and dramas in the language which are read with interest even today. Some of the dramas have historical events as their themes while others have a social basis. The most important works of 'E. V.' as a humorist are *Chiriyum Chindayum, Kavithakesu, Police Ramayanam* and *M.L.C. Kathakal* and these have won for him an immortal place among the modern writers in Malayalam.

Yet another literary figure of the District in recent times was C. V. Kunjuraman (1871-1949). He was a poet, literary critic, prose writer and journalist of distinction. He edited for a time the *Kerala Kaumudi* and *Malayalarajyam* and he was noted for the vigour of his writings.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Total population according to Sub-divisions

The total population of the Quilon District according to the 1961 Census is 1,941,228. The following table gives the sex-wise break-up of this figure.

Rural and Urban Population (1961) (Sex wise)

	Persons	*Males*	*Females*
Total	1,941,228	972,657	968,571
Rural	1,796,992	643,845	898,746
Urban	144,236	226,039	73,911

The Taluk-wise rural and urban population of the District as per the 1961 Census is also given below.

Taluk-wise population figures (1961 Census)

Name of Taluk	*Total Rural Urban*	*Total population*		
		Persons	*Males*	*Females*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Pathanamthitta (No urban area)	Rural	333,310	167,540	165,770—
Kunnathur (No urban area)	Rural	238,043	118,877	119,166+
Karunagapally (No urban area)	Rural	265,187	133,004	132,183—
Quilon	Total	525,590	263,059	262,531—
	Rural	381,354	189,148	192,206+
	Urban	144,236	73,911	70,325—
Kottarakara (No urban area)	Rural	331,361	165,528	165,833 +
Pathanapuram	Rural	247,737	124,649	123,088—

The proportion of the population of Quilon to the total population of the State is about 11.44%, the District getting the second rank among the Districts of Kerala in this regard.

*As for density of population, Quilon gets the fifth rank among the Districts of Kerala. In 1951 the density per sq. mile was 807 persons, but according to the 1961 Census it is 1,062 which is below the State average of 1,127 per sq. mile. Considered Taluk-wise Quilon Taluk has the highest density among the Taluks of the District, while Pathanamthitta has the lowest. All the Taluks except Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta have a density which is higher than that of the District as a whole. The following table shows the density of population in each of the Taluks in 1961.

Population Density 1961

Taluk	Number of persons per Sq. mile		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Pathanamthitta	437	437	..
Kunnathur	1,581	1,581	..
Karunagappally	3,404	3,404	..
Quilon	3,580	2,893	9,648
Kottarakkara	1,556	1,556	..
Pathanapuram	520	520	..
Quilon District	1,062	992	9,648

Sex Ratio

Of the total population of the District 972,657 are males and 968,571 are females. Thus there are 996 females for every 1,000 males in this District. Quilon has a very low sex ratio when compared to Districts like Trichur and Palghat which have 1,090 females and 1,086 respectively per 1,000 males in their population.

Growth of Population

The population of Quilon has been continually on the increase. According to the *Quilon District Census Handbook* (1951) it increased by 250% during the fifty years from 1901 to 1951. It rose further from 1,476,406 in 1951 to 1,941,228 in 1961 registering an increase of 31.70% during the decade. This is the highest rate of population increase among the Districts of Kerala during the decade 1951-61. The causes of the growth of population in this District are the same as in other parts of the country. The obvious answer to the high population growth is the increase in the expectation of life at birth in the country as a whole. The expectation of life at birth in India in 1951 was estimated at 32.45 for males and

31.66 for females and it has been estimated at a little more than 45 in 1961. The average expectation of life at birth in India as a whole has increased by more than a year every year. This increase is due to various reasons like better control of epidemics, massive B.C.G. campaign against tuberculosis, improvement in public health and sanitation etc. No wonder therefore that there has been a decrease in death rate and corresponding growth in population all over the country. In addition one of the special reasons for the growth of population in Quilon seems to be the immigration into the District of people from outside. There are a large number of factories in and around Quilon town which provide opportunities of employment on a large scale. This attracts immigrants into the District. There are also plantations and estates in the Pathanamthitta and Kunnathur Taluks which attract immigrant labour from outside. To cite an example, a large number of people from other parts have migrated into the Kodumon and Angadikkal villages in Kunnathur Taluk for work in the Kodumon Rubber Plantations. In the Pathanapuram Taluk there are vast stretches of cultivable lands and people from outside have been migrating to this Taluk for permanent settlement and cultivation in these areas. The immigrants are generally hard working people and they have rendered great help in improving agriculture and contributing to the general economic development of the District as a whole. This immigration may be said to have had some effect on the growth of population in the District, but it cannot by any means be considered as a very decisive factor.

There has been no organised emigration of people from this District to other parts of the State or outside. But there are isolated instances of emigration of whole families to places outside the District with a view to earning a better living. The Tahsildar, Pathanapuram, reports that one family consisting of five members was sent from that Taluk to the Andamans for being settled under the centrally sponsored scheme for the settlement of agricultural families in that Union Territory. There are also instances of certain Christian families from Quilon District having gone out to the North Malabar area of the State where there are vast areas of undeveloped lands holding out great attraction to enterprising people from outside. Moreover, educated and qualified persons from different parts of the District have gone to foreign countries like East Africa, Iran, Kuwait etc. in search of better employment and

a higher standard of living. Such isolated instances of emigration cannot however be said to have had any appreciable effect on fluctuations in population.

Distribution of population between rural and urban areas.

The vast majority of people in Quilon District live in the rural areas. Out of the total population of 1,941,228 in 1961 only 144,236 persons live in the urban areas. The urban area in this District comprises of three towns viz., Quilon, Kilikollur and Kundara. The total population (sex-wise) of these towns is given below.

Urban Population (1961—Census)

Town	Total Population		
	Persons	*Males*	*Females*
1. Kundara	20,945	10,743	10,202
2. Kilikollur	32,273	16,361	15,912
3. Quilon (Municipal)	91,018	46,807	44,211
Total	144,236	73,911	70,325

The concept of the town has changed at successive Censuses and it is therefore difficult to compare the urban population in one Census year with that in any other. In the Census of 1951 all municipal towns and conservancy towns of the Travancore-Cochin area and certain Panchayat Boards of the Malabar area were treated as towns in Kerala. Hence in this District there were 9 towns in 1951. They were Quilon, Kottarakara, Punalur, Pathanapuram, Kozhencherry Pathanamthitta, Adur, Karunagapally and Oachira and the total urban population was 142,641. In the Census of 1961 the definition of town was changed and applied almost uniformly throughout India. The new criterion required in case of places other than municipalities, cantonments and civil lines that there should be a minimum population of 5,000, density of not less than 1,000 persons per sq. mile and at least 75% of the male population should be engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. Judged by these standards only three places in this District could be classified as towns in 1961 and this resulted in the very low proportion of urban population to the total population of the District. In fact, among the Districts of Kerala the proportion of urban population to the total population is now the lowest in Quilon with only 74 persons per thousand living in its urban areas. This compares unfavourably with the State average

of 15.11% for urban population according to the 1961 Census. Had the definition of town adopted at the Census of 1951 not changed, the urban population of the District would certainly have registered a steep rise in 1961. It should however be stated that in spite of the low proportion of urban population, Quilon with 9,648 persons per sq. mile has the distinction of having the highest urban density among the Districts of the State.

Distribution of population on the basis of Mother tongue.

As the 1961 Census figures of the distribution of population according to language are not available, the relevant figures of the 1951 Census for the District as it is constituted today are given below.

Distribution of Population according to Language (1951)

Language		*Persons*
Malayalam	..	1,401,366
Tamil	..	69,183
Hindi	..	217
Canarese	..	88
Telugu	..	1,511
Kangani	..	2,108
Marathi	..	37
Gujarathi	..	85
Others	..	1,811
Total	..	1,476,406

It is clear from the above table that Malayalam is the predominant language spoken by the people of the District. Tamil is the language which is next in importance. It may be mentioned in this connection that before the reorganisation of States in November 1956 the Shencottah Taluk with its 93% Tamil speaking population was part of the erstwhile Quilon District. This area was added on to Madras State following the reorganisation. The extent of bilingualism in Quilon at present is not considerable enough to deserve any detailed treatment of the subject.

Differences in Dialect.

Kerala is generally divided into three regional Dialects, viz., the Southern Dialect, the Middle Dialect and the Northern Dialect. The Quilon District falls within the area where the Middle Dialect is in vogue. The distinguishing feature of this

Dialect is that it contains a considerable admixture of Sanskrit words. As in the case of other languages there are differences between the colloquial language spoken by certain classes of people in the District and the written dialect in Malayalam. The Hill Tribes speak a kind of primitive dialect in Malayalam which is unintelligible to the large majority. The Kanikars speak a dialect of Malayalam with an admixture of Tamil words. The Kochuvelans, another Hill Tribe, speak Malayalam with a peculiar accent which is difficult for others to understand. Other Hill Tribes like the Mala Kuravans, the Mala Pandarams and the Mala Vedans also speak a poor dialect with many Tamil and Malayalam words and phrases. Thus the language spoken by the Hill Tribes of the District affords the example of a corrupt dialect of Malayalam.

Scripts used.

The script that is in vogue in the District is the modern Malayalam script which has developed out of *Grandha* or *Arya Ezhuthu* popularised by Thunchathu Ezhuthachan who lived in the 17th Century A. D. But the oldest alphabet known to have been current in the District as elsewhere in Kerala is *Vattezhuthu* otherwise called *Nanammonam*. *Vattezhuthu* gained currency in Kerala long before the beginning of the Kollam Era (825 A. D.). It was used in official documents in Travancore even during the time of Uthram Thirunal (1847 to 1860 A. D. . It may however be noted that the script which was in vogue in the 18th and 19th centuries was different from what it was in the beginning of the Kollam Era and was commonly called *Kolezhuthu*. It was with the increasing popularity of the *Grandha* script that the *Vattezhuthu* script declined. The modern Malayalam script is adopted mainly from the *Grandha*.

RELIGION AND CASTE

Principal Castes and Communities.

A detailed account of each community and caste in the District is not attempted in this Chapter. On the other hand we are confining ourselves to a general discussion of the traditional social structure, the customs and manners of people who profess the main religions and the nature of inter-caste and inter-communal relations. As in other Districts of Kerala the Hindus form the bulk of the population in the Quilon District also. The Christians form the second largest community and

the Muslims the third. This proportion holds good in regard to all the Taluks in the District except Karunagapally where the Muslims outnumber the Christians. As the distribution of population on the basis of religion as per the 1961 Census is not available the relevant figures of the 1951 Census are given below[1].

Distribution of population on the basis of religion (1951)

	Religion	*Population*	*Percentage to the total population of the District*
1.	Hindus	973,421	65.93
2.	Christians	349,645	23.68
3.	Muslims	153,229	10.38
4.	Others	111	0.01

Hindus.

The Hindu society is organised on the basis of the caste system. The exact figures of population on the basis of castes and sub-castes are not available as the Census Reports since 1951 do not give the distribution of population on the basis of caste. A general idea of the relative strength of the major castes in the Hindu community in the various Taluks of the District can however be had from the Census Report of 1941. The Brahmins, the Ambalavasis and Kshatriyas form only a small proportion of the Hindu population. The 1941 Census returned a total of 7,936 Brahmins including 151 Namboothiris and 626 Pottis from this District. At the same time there were only 925 Ambalavasis and 297 Kshatriyas. The figures of the 1941 Census show that the Nairs and Ezhavas constitute the major Castes among the Hindus of the Quilon District. The Taluk-wise figures of population of these castes in Quilon as per the 1941 Census are given below.

Taluk-wise population of Nairs and Ezhavas in the District (1941 Census)

Taluk		*Ezhavas*	*Nairs*
Quilon	..	70,462	72,474
Karunagapally	..	65,260	49,342
Kunnathur	..	22,344	41,194
Kottarakara	..	31,266	53,212
Pathanapuram	..	14,478	85,032
Pathanamthitta	..	28,654	36,358

1 The figures for 1961 published later are given as an Appendix to this Chapter.

Though the figures given above are now obsolete, they still help to convey a broad idea of the relative strength of the Nairs and the Ezhavas among the Hindus in each of the Taluks of the District. These two castes undoubtedly form the backbone of the Hindu community. The Nairs are supposed to have been originally a military class, but with the British conquest and occupation of the country they gave up their traditional occupation of fighting and took to agriculture, Government service and the learned professions and callings. There was at one time a plurality of sub-castes among them and inter-dining and inter-marriages were tabooed. But in recent years the fusion of sub-castes among the Nairs has become a *fait accompli* and both inter-marriages and inter-dining meet with the full approval of society. Like the Nairs the Ezhavas have also been for long one of the leading communities of Quilon. Mayyanad in this District is associated with one of the four exogamous groups into which they were sub-divided.[1] Their traditional occupation has been the extraction of liquor from coconut palm. A distinguishing feature of this community is that large numbers among them have engaged themselves in the professions of astrology and medicine. It is also seen that from time immemorial they have enjoyed along with the Nairs joint rights over several temples. In this connection, the shrine of Sakthikulangara in Karunagapally Taluk may be cited as an illustration. Further, there is evidence that even as late as the 18th century large numbers of Ezhavas were employed as soldiers by the rulers of Travancore, and that they were honoured with titles for the services rendered by them. Some of the titles of the Ezhavas are Channan, Panikkar, Tandan and Asan. The Ezhava community has also undergone radical social transformation in recent times. They have progressively given up their traditional occupation of toddy-drawing and taken to agriculture, trade, industries, Government service, and the learned professions. Under the guidance of spiritual leaders like Sri Narayana Guru, the Ezhavas have improved their social, economic and political status. In fact, the influence of Sri Narayana Guru has been most marked in this District and this accounts for the striking progress attained by the Ezhava community in Quilon. Next to the Nairs and Ezhavas, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute the most important segment of the Hindu population of the District. As the figures of their population

1 *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. II, Edgar Thurston, p. 394.

according to the 1951 and 1961 Censuses are available and are given elsewhere in this Chapter, the figures according to the Census of 1941 are not reproduced here. The Kammalas constitute the fourth largest Hindu community in the District. According to the Census of 1941 there were 34,197 of them. They are divided into five occupational classes according to the material on which they ply their art. They are the Asari (carpenter), Thattan (goldsmith), Kallan or Kallasari (mason), Moosari (coppersmith) and Kollan (blacksmith).

HILL TRIBES

According to the Census of 1951 there were 183,003 Scheduled Casters and 2,614 Scheduled Tribes in this Distroct. The provisional figures for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes according to 1961 Census are as follows.

Population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1961)

		Scheduled Castes	*Scheduled Tribes*
Males	..	113,026	1,438
Females	..	114,385	1,416
Total	..	227,411	2,854

The most important sects among the Scheduled Castes are Kuravas, Parayas and the Pulayas. They are found distributed in all the Taluks in the District. The Scheduled Tribes found in Quilon are the Kanikkars, Kochu Velans, Mala Kuravans, Mala Vedans, Mala Pandarams, Mannans and Mala Ulladans. In view of the special fascination they hold to the student of school anthropology, detailed information on each of these Tribes is given below.[1]

Kanikkars

The Kanikkars, popularly known as Kanis, are found at Kulathupuzha and Chitra in the Pathanapuram Taluk. There are a number of traditions about their origin which have been handed down from generation to generation in popular songs and folklore. According to one such tradition they came to be called Kanikkars when they submitted to a ruling chief and paid homage (Kani) to him in honey, cardamom, ivory

1 The information given here is based on the *Hill Tribes of Kerala* (1962) by A. A. D. Luiz.

and such other hill produce. According to Edgar Thurston, "The word *Kanikkaran* means the hereditary proprietor of land. There is a tradition that there were two hill kings, Veerappan and Sithangan whose descendants emigrated from the Pandyan territories beyond Agastyakudam under pressure from a superior force, and never returned to the low country".[1] One of the Travancore rulers fearful of some of the chieftains, sought refuge among the hill men and called them Mala Arayans. The Kanikkars are short-statured. They have brachycephalic heads, receding foreheads, flat nose, prognathous jaws and wide nostrils. Their colour varies from light to dark brown and they are seen in costumes of different kinds. They leave the upper parts of their body exposed. The *Kanikkarathi* (female) uses rings, bangles, nose rings, and ear rings. The Kanikkars have among them a number of exogamous clans. Their system of inheritance is peculiar in the sense that all assets are divided equally among the sons and nephews of the deceased male. They have among them the institution of the headman who is called Vettumala Kanikkaran. Marriages among the Kanikkars are governed by the law of exogamy. Polygamy is practised among them. Desertion and divorce are common. The Kanikkars worship all the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. The sage Agastya is their patron saint and they invoke his name to bring confusion to their enemies. In addition they propitiate a number of deities and spirits whom they believe to be the cause of misery. Madan and Mariamman, (the Goddess of Small-pox) are worshipped by them at night to ward off fever, small-pox and other afflictions. A *Velichapad* (oracle) officiates as priest for Madan and women for Mariamman. Burying the dead is common among the Kanikkar, but cremation is also not unknown.

Kochu Velans

Kochu Velans are found in the Ranni Range of Pathanamthitta Taluk along the Pamba and Achenkoil rivers, in the Sabarimala reserve forests, and in the high mountains of the Konni Range. The Hill Tribes like Mala Pandarams who perform religious ceremonies for the pilgrims who visit Sabarimala temple declare their community to be Kochu Velans. They proudly claim that they are the descendants of Lord Sastha of Sabarimala. They are of dark brown colour and of medium

1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. III, Edgar Thurston, p. 163.

height. They are non-vegetarians and eat bison meat. The Kochu Velans follow the patrilineal system of inheritance. They worship all the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. But they have also their favourite dieties like Chathan, Karimkutti, Mundian etc. They offer live sacrifices and worship Bhagavathi and their own ancestors as gods. The *Velan Thullal* is a popular dance performed by this tribe to please their gods. They have their own priests or *poojaries* called Kurups. Divorces, desertion and polygamy are common among the Kochu Velans. It is customary with them to bury the dead in far away graves and mark the locations with stones.

Mala Kuravans

The Mala Kuravans are found in Chittar, Kattachira and Rajampara in the Ranni Range of the Pathanamthitta Taluk, Nottakkal in the Pathanapuram Taluk and the banks of the Pamba river. They claim that they are the descendants of the Kurus or the Kauravas who having been defeated by the Pandavas in the epic battle of Kurukshetra were forced to move to the Western Ghats in the South. They have among them a number of clans. They follow the patrilineal system of inheritance. Their main occupations are hunting, agriculture and collection of hill produce. They construct their huts out of bamboos locally available and the floor of the hut is level with the ground. All the gods of the Hindu pantheon are worshipped, but the worship of the spirits of ancestors is very popular among them. They have also great faith in magic, sorcery and superstition. The Mala Kuravans have the institution of the *Urali* or headman. All disputes among them are settled at a conference of *Uralis* presided over by the seniormost among them. Marriage by purchase is the popular form of marriage among Mala Kuravans. Marriages are also governed by the law of exogamy. Polygamy is practised among them. The Mala Kuravans bury their dead in deep graves far away from their settlements.

Mala Vedans

The Mala Vedans are found at Kadimeenchira, Narayanamuzhi, Kumarapuram and Katachira in Pathanamthitta Taluk and at Ottakal, Thenmla nd Achenkovil in Pathanapuram Taluk. As their name indicates, hunting was their traditional occupation. They are of medium height with dolichocephalic heads, receding foreheads, curly hair and black eyes. Their colour varies from dark to brown. Both sexes among them use rings,

ear rings and bangles. Some decades ago they were clothed in *Maraviri* (bark of trees) and hence they were called *Tol Vedans*. Their system of inheritance is peculiar in the sense that the belongings of the deceased are distributed equally among the sons and nephews. Widows, daughters and nieces receive nothing, if males exist. A large number among the Mala Vedans are now employed as farmers and plantation labourers. Marriage among them takes place by purchase, service or capture. Polygamy, divorce and desertion are common. They worship all the gods of the Hindu pantheon and visit Hindu temples. The worship of ancestors is also common among them. The Mala Vedans have faith in magic, sorcery and superstition. They bury their dead in graves about five feet deep.

Mala Pandarams

The Mala Pandarams are found in the high forests of the Quilon District. The forest tracts around the Sabari Giri Project, the banks of the Pamba river, the Manimala Range, the Achenkovil Hills and the Sabarimala forests are their abodes. They are a primitive race of people whose traditional occupations have been hunting and food gathering. They are of dark complexion and of medium height and are generally energetic, healthy and cheerful. Both sexes among them leave the upper part of their body uncovered. The females among them use a long cloth dressed around the hip and thrown across the chest. Even now many among them use *Maraviris* or barks of trees to cover their nakedness. They are non-vegetarians and are also addicted to alchohol and smoke. At one time they followed a peculiar system of inheritance under which the nephews shared the assests of the deceased with his sons but this has now given place to the concept of the patrilineal rule of succession. The Mala Pandarams have no aptitude for agriculture. Being a nomadic race they roam about the forests collecting hill produce, hunting, fishing and catching tortoise from the Pamba river and forest streams. Their only important daily meal is at dusk and it consists of such items as herbs, roots and yams found in the forests. They collect honey at night, and fish in the streams by poisoning the water with the bark of wild trees. In their wanderings they are accompanied by a dog which is their favourite pet. Being a wandering race they live in caves, overhanging rocks and in the hollows of trees and do not generally put up permanent huts. Owing to the shortage of women among them run-away marriages are

common among them, and there are also cases of brothers sharing a wife. The Mala Pandarams have among them the hereditary institution of the headman known as *Kani* or *Mooppan*. He plays the role of a priest and in some cases, also of the oracle, during their ceremonies. The Mala Pandarams worship various gods and goddesses such as Sastha, Kali, Mariamman, Chaplamma, Kattlaparamma etc. They have also a number of forest deities among them. They always try to propitiate these deities by ceremonies. The Mala Pandarams neither cremate nor bury their dead. They generally leave the corpse where the death occurs, but the more advanced sections among them now bury the dead in deep graves.

Mannans

Mannans are found in the Forest Ranges of the Pathanamthitta Taluk. They are of medium height with the colour varying from very dark to brown. Members of both sexes use rings and women are seen with nose rings, bangles, blouses, coloured sarees and tattoo on their noses and foreheads. Some men also wear shirts and dhoties and grow moustaches. They are non-vegetarians who eat bison meat. They consume alchohol, but avoid cow's milk. They generally do not use the coconut, because of a superstition that its use would invite attacks by tigers and elephants. *Marumakkathayam* is the popular rule of succession among them. The Mannans once practised shifting cultivation, but they have now taken to settled life as agricultural labourers. Collection of honey and other forest produces is also an occupation with many. Hunting is resorted to for supplementing the diet whenever necessary. They have also the institution of the headman or the *Kani*. They worship all the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. Monogamy is the general rule among them, but a childless wife is enough justification for a second marriage. There are also cases of desertion and divorce. The Mannans bury their dead in a very solemn manner in deep graves far away from their settlement.

Mala Ulladans

The Mala Ulladans are found in the Ranni Range in Pathanamthitta Taluk. There are legends which describe them as the progeny of sage Valmiki. They are a happy people who dance to the tune of the flutes and drums they themselves make. Both sexes dance and sing. Dances like *Thalayattam* and *Kolukali* are impressive. The rule of succession among them is a mixture of *Marumakkathayam* and *Makkathayam*.

The Mala Ulladans are seen engaged in cultivation, but the great majority among them are nomads who subsist by food gathering and hunting. They eat whatever is available. Rats form an important part of their food and they are adepts in capturing them. Some of them specialise in the capture of crocodiles whose flesh they eat as a delicacy while selling the skin and fat. They also collect medicinal herbs and sell them for their income. The womenfolk of the Mala Ulladans seldom go for work. During their leisure time they make mats and baskets. The Mala Ulladans are supposed to be experts in the preparation of spurious talisman and in the *odi* and other cults that help them to injure those who have done them harm. They are essentially animists and devil worshippers. They propitiate the spirits of ancestors in order to protect themselves against wild animals and epidemics. They have faith in black magic and sorcery, and practically every adult male among them is a magician or *Mantravadi*. Those Mala Ulladans who are settled in agriculture have built satisfactory huts for themselves, but those who are nomads live in the hollow of trees and under over-hanging rocks. The Mala Ulladans have also the institution of the hereditary headman, known as *Mootu Kari*. Marriage by purchase is popular among them. Desertion is practically unknown and divorce takes place by mutual consent of the husband and wife. The Mala Ulladans bury their dead in a solemn manner.

Hindu Religious beliefs and practices

The general religious beliefs and practices of the Hindus of the District are not substantially different from those of Hindus in other parts of the State or the country. They are the result of a gradual process of assimilation of Dravidian and Aryan ideas. Serpent worship and ancestor worship which are common among the Hindus of the District show traces of Dravidian influence. At one time a Serpent *Kavu* (the abode of snakes) formed an essential adjunct to every Namboothiri house, but their number has decreased considerably in recent times in the wake of the advance of civilization. Mannarsala *Kavu* near Harippad in the neighbouring Alleppey District attracts even today a large number of devotees from among the Hindus of Quilon and other parts of erstwhile Travancore. Like serpent worship, ancestor worship is also an old custom of the Hindus. Deceased ancestors are looked upon as the benefactors of the *Tarawad* and they are therefore worshipped with due

rites and ceremonies. The Vavu Bali performed on New Moon Days is an important custom connected with ancestor worship.

The major deities worshipped by the Hindus of the District are Siva, Vishnu, Bhagavathi, Sastha, Subramonya and Ganapathi while the minor deities are Mariamman, Madan, Mundian, Bhadrakali, Chathan, Yakshee etc. The Rameswarath temple in Quilon town and the Siva temple at Vettikavala are among the important Siva temples of the District. There are Siva temples also at such places as Karunagappally, Punalur and Pozhikarai. The Kottathali Vishnu temple in Kottarakara Taluk is one of the oldest Vishnu temples of the District. The Vadayattukotta, Mukathala and Thirumullavaram temples are dedicated to Vishnu in the form of Krishna. Some of the Bhagavathi and Sastha temples of Quilon are quite famous. The Bhagavathi temples of repute are those of Anandavalleeswaram, Kadakkal, Pattazhi and Mannadi. The Sastha temples of Sabarimala, (Kottayam District) Ariankavu, Achenkovil, Kulathupuzha and Sasthamcottah are among the most important of their kind in all Kerala.[1] While the first four of these temples are believed to have been built by Parasurama himself for the defence of the newly created land of Kerala against foreign incursions, the temple at Sasthamcottah is believed to have been founded by Sri Rama. In addition there are Sastha temples at Chattannur, Sasthankonam and Omallur. Among the temples dedicated to Subramonya may be mentioned the one at Umayanallur. There is an old Ganapathi temple at Kottarakara but the image of Ganapathi may be seen installed as a supplementary deity in almost every temple. Among the temples dedicated to the minor deities may be mentioned the Mariamman temple at Thenmala. A deity popularly called Indalayappan is also worshipped by the Hindus of the District. There are Indalayappan temples in such places as Velunallur (Kottarakara Taluk) and Uzhaikode (Quilon Taluk). It has been suggested that these might have been at one time Buddhist temples.[2] There is a unique kind of temple at Oachira in Karunagappally Taluk where the *Parabrahmam* is worshipped. The peculiarity of this temple is that it has

1 Till the transfer of a portion of the Periyar Game Sanctuary of Ranni Village of Pathanamthitta Taluk to Peermade Taluk of Kottayam (vide Notification No. S.RN3-24922|56 dated 24-9-1956) the Sabarimala Temple was situated in Quilon District.

2 *Chila Kerala Charitra Prasnamgal* (1963), Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, p.221.

neither a temple building nor an idol, but still it attracts a large number of pilgrims who come and stay here for cure. Even before the Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936 its doors were open to all Hindus irrespective of caste. Further at Mathra in Chirayinkil Taluk (Trivandrum District) bordering the Quilon District in the South is a temple dedicated to Surya (Sun God) and people from the neighbouring areas of Quilon Taluk visit this place to offer worship.

Certain plants and animals are also sacred to the Hindus. The former includes the *Aswattha,* the *Bilwa* and the *Thulasi.* The *Aswattha* is planted in the outer premises of temples. Devotees perform *pradikshinams* or circumambulations rouud this tree. The *Bilwa* is considered sacred to Siva and its leaves are strung together into garlands in order to adorn his images in temples. Similarly *Thulasi* is considered sacred to Vishnu and garlands made of it are used to grace his images. It is also used in all temples in connection with floral offerings irrespective of the deities installed therein. The *Kusa* and *Darbha* are also used in many religious ceremonies. The chief species of animals held in veneration are, in addition to the serpent (Naga), the cow, the bull, the garuda, the peacock and the monkey.

Sastha Worship

In view of the special importance of the Sastha temples of Quilon District it seems appropriate to highlight the importance of the cult of Sastha worship in this Chapter.[1] Sastha is also known as Ayyappan or Hariharaputra. Hariharaputra means the son of Vishnu (Hari) and Siva (Hara), Vishnu having assumed the form of a woman. The name Sastha is said to denote the power to protect. He is the guardian angel of the mountainous tracts, protecting all his devotees from the attacks of wild beasts. Sabarimala, the most famous Sastha temple in Kerala, is situated on a high hill surrounded by dense forests infested by elephants,, tigers and other wild beasts. In spite of the perils of the journey through these inhospitable forests two to three

1 Attention is invited to *Buddhism in Kerala* by Dr. P. C. Alexander. Chapter VII in this book is devoted to a discussion on the alleged relationship between Buddhism and Sastha worship. The subject is also discussed in the article on "Sastha—the Forest Deity of Travancore" by Prof. V. Narayana Pillai in the *K.V. Rangaswamy Ayyangar Commemoration Volume,* pp.539-547. S. Sanku Iyer's work *Keralavum Buddhamathavum* (1962) also deals with the same subject.

lakhs of pilgrims flock every year to Sabarimala for the Makaravilakku, i.e., the festival held on 1st Makaram (January-February). Some scholars find in the Sastha a Hinduised version of the Buddha and in the pilgrimage to Sabarimala traces of Buddhist influence, while some others regard him as a pre-Aryan or Dravidian deity incorporated within the Hindu fold by the Aryans during a very early stage of their colonisation of South India. T. A. Gopinatha Rao observes, "The deity Arya, Sastha or Hariharaputra, so well-known to the Dravida, is not familiar to the inhabitants of Northern India. Even in the Dravida country he is the favourite only of the Malayalam people. The country of the latter possesses as large a number of temples of Sastha as the Tamil country has of Subramonya. He is considered by them (the people of Malabar) as the guardian of the land and as such eight mountain tops along the western ghats are surmounted by eight temples in which are set up eight images of Sastha to protect the country on the west of the mountain ranges from all external evils and misfortunes. The attributes applied to him, such as the rider of the white elephant, *yogi*, the protector of *Dharma*, coupled with the significance of Buddha applied to Sastha in the *Amarakosa* incline one to conclude that the Buddha as conceived and worshipped in the Tamil country was ultimately included in the Hindu Pantheon and a puranic story invented for his origin at a later period of the history of Hindu Iconology".[1] The author of the *Travancore Census Report* (1931) also asserts that the famous Sastha temples like the one at Sabarimala were "originally none other than temples dedicated to Buddha".[2] The main arguments advanced in favour of the Buddhist theory of the Sastha may be summarised here. When Buddhism was getting absorbed within Hinduism the Buddha himself was Hinduised and worshipped under the name of Sastha. The *Amarakosa* actually mentions the Sastha as one of the synonyms of the Buddha. The Sabarimala pilgrims have to observe strict vows of non-violence, vegetarianism and abstinence from worldly pleasures for a period of about two months prior to their pilgrimage and this is a practice which is reminiscent of the Buddhist doctrine of *Ahimsa*. Further the pilgrims do not observe any caste distinctions during the period of their vow and this also accords well with the Buddhist emphasis on castelessness and cosmopolitanism. The sing song repetition of "Saranam

1 Quoted in the *Travancore State Manual* Vol.I, T.K. Velu Pillai, p.585.

2 *Travancore Census Report* 1931, p. 344.

Ayyappa" by the pilgrims to Sabarimala also reminds one of the triple *saranam* formula of the *Buddha*, the *Dharma* and the *Sangha* of the Buddhists. Even the story regarding the birth of the Sastha as the son of Hari and Hara is regarded as the result of an attempt on the part of the Saivaites and the Vaishnavites to accommodate the Buddhists within their fold. The location of the famous Sastha temples in the interior of the forests is said to lend additional support to the Buddhist theory because it is believed that the Buddhists preferred to live in far away secluded places. Some scholars also point out that there is a striking resemblance between the figures of the Sastha and the Buddha in posture as well as in form. Such arguments advanced in support of the Buddhist theory of the Sastha are not however accepted by all scholars. It is pointed out that fasting and such other rituals observed by the pilgrims to Sabarimala are not peculiar to Buddhism but are characteristic of the Hindu religion as well. The alleged resemblance between the images of Sastha and of the Buddha is also denied. It is further argued that the Sastha is worshipped as a popular deity by almost all classes of people and that this universal prevalence of Sastha worship is incompatible with the theory of the Sastha as the Hinduised Buddha. Those who reject the Buddhist theory of the Sastha alternately identify him with Ayyanar, a non-Aryan deity, commonly worshipped on the East Coast and known by such diverse names as Sattan, Ayyan, Ayyappan Hariharaputra and Sastha.[1] Hinduism of Kerala is the result of the synthesis of Aryan and non-Aryan elements and Sastha worship is regarded as the Dravidian element which was incorporated into the Aryan religion in the wake of the Aryanisation of the West Coast. Considering the question in all its aspects, the theory of the Sastha as a Dravidian deity seems to be more acceptable. It is significant that even today Sastha is worshipped mainly by sects other than orthodox Brahmins. It must however be stated that even if one cannot accept the Buddhist theory of the Sastha it is difficult to deny that Buddhism with its large following among the people of Kerala at a remote period of its history influenced in its own way the development of the Sastha cult.

Temple rites

The temples have an important place in the scheme of Hindu religious worship. Some of the most important temples of the

1 Please refer to the Chapter "The Worship of Sastha" in *Some Aspects of Kerala and Tamil Literature*, Part II, M. Raghava Ayyangar, pp. 29-35.

District have already been mentioned. The Kerala temple consists of various parts but the lofty *Gopuram* which is so characteristic of temples in the Tamil country is conspicuous by its absence. The shrine or the *sanctum sanctorum* is called *Srikovil.* It is square, oblong or circular in shape and consists of one or two storeys. The *Srikovil* is surrounded by five successive boundaries called the *Panchaprakaras.* They are (1) the *Antharmandalam* immediately surrounding the *Srikovil,* (2) the *Anthahara,* otherwise called *Nalambalam,* (3) the *Madhyahara* also called *Vilakkumadam,* (4) the *Bahyahara* representing the *Belivattam* in large temples and (5) the *Maryada* or outer wall. The following extract from the *Travancore Devaswom Manual* may be of interest in this connection. "The above divisions are important only for ceremonial purposes. The ordinary worshipper who visits a temple has, first of all, to pass through the main outer entrance or *Gopuram.* This may consist of an ordinary doorway with a small roofing over it or one with a superstructure comprising rooms and verandah or an elaborately constructed tower several storeys high. Passing the *Gopuram* the worshipper comes to the *Anakottil* where the elephants are brought to take the deity in procession on festive occasions. The *Sribeli pura* (in the case of large temples) or *Pradakshina vali* starts from one end of the *Anakottil* and after going round the temple rejoins it at the other end. From the *Anakottil* the devotee enters the *Belikkalpura* in the middle of which is located the *Valiya Belikkal.* Between the *Balikkalpura* and the *Anakottil* is the place for the flag staff or *Dhwajam.* The doorway from the *Belikkalpura* gives entrance to the *'Nalambalam'* representing the platforms, etc., on either side of the corridor leading from the doorway, the *Thidappally* or Kitchen, etc. The *Nalambalam* is generally bounded on all sides by the *'Vilakkumadam'* or structure of lights."[1] The flight of steps that leads to the *Srikovil* is called the *Sopanam.* In some temples there is a *Mukhamandapam,* a raised platform in front of the *Srikovil* and attached to it. Moreover, in most of the important temples there is an inner circle within the *Srikovil* wherein the deity is installed. It is called the *Garbhagraham.* Some of the bigger temples have also a separate structure known as the *Koothambalam* for the exposition of puranic stories. Every temple has also a well inside the *Nalambalam* which is kept free from defilement. The water for bathing the idol and other purposes connected with

1 Quoted in the *Travancore State Manual* Vol.I, T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 588

the ceremonies in the temple is drawn only from this well. Worshippers enter the inner precincts of the Kerala temples only after taking bath and wearing clean clothes.

The worship in the temples is prescribed by the *Agamas* and the *Thantras*. Thantric rules have their roots in the sacred literature of the Hindus, the *Vedas* and the *Brahmanas*. The *Pooja* or worship is performed by the priest after he has purified himself by the performance of such external acts like *dhyanam* (meditation) and *japam* (prayer). This is followed by the offerings of water, flower, sandal, incense, camphor etc. By the offering of water and sandal the *Archaka* (priest) seeks to identify his body with the universal soul. The offering of flowers is done with a view to establishing the unity of his physical and mental powers with those of the God (Iswara). By offerings of incense it is believed that the *Archaka* is freed of all his sins. The priest alone can touch the idol or enter the *Garbhagraha* in a Kerala temple. It is customary to offer *prasada* to the worshippers from outside the *Srikovil*. It consists of holy ashes, sandal paste, flowers etc. The number of daily *poojas* in a temple varies according to the importance of each. The maximum number is five and the minimum one. The daily *poojas* are called *Nityanidanam*. Under this head come the *abhishekam*, *pooja*, *nivedyam*, *namaskaram*, *sribeli* etc. The devotees offer *vazhipadus* which consist of *nivedyams*, *archanas*, lighting etc. The *kanikka* or the depositing of coins is a common practice in most temples. Ornaments and other valuables are also offered by devotees to the deity. *Muzhukappu* or the artistic coating of the idol with sandal paste is an important *vazhivadu* in many temples. In most of the major temples there is an annual *utsavam*. The function consists of special services and processions. Exhibitions of various arts like *Kathakali*, *Ottam Thullal*, *Patakom* etc., are conducted for the benefit of the devotees. During the processions the idol of the deity is taken round in *pradakshinam* inside the temple on the back of caparisoned elephants to the accompaniment of *nagaswaram* and other music.

The temples of the District are now open to all the Hindus irrespective of caste. This was not however the position till a quarter of a century ago. The so-called *Avarnas* or backward classes were prevented from entering the temples. They could offer worship only from allotted places of prescribed distance. In course of time a feeling of self-respect asserted itself among the backward classes and the demand for temple

entry took shape. The new movement secured the sympathetic support of large numbers of people belonging to the *Savarnas* or Higher Castes. On November 12, 1936 His Highness Sri Chitra Thirunal issued the famous Temple Entry Proclamation throwing open the temples of Travancore to all Hindus irrespective of caste. In view of the historic importance of this Proclamation which is the first of its kind in India its full text is given below.

"Profoundly convinced of the truth and validity of our religion, believing that it is based on divine guidance and on all-comprehending toleration, knowing that in its practice it has, throughout the centuries, adapted itself to the needs of changing times, solicitous that none of Our Hindu subjects should, by reason of birth or caste or community, be denied the consolidations and solace of the Hindu faith, We have decided and hereby declare, ordain and command that, subject to such rules and conditions as may be laid down and imposed by Us for preserving their proper atmosphere and maintaining their rituals and observances, there should henceforth be no restriction placed on any Hindu by birth or religion on entering or worshipping at the temples controlled by Us and Our Government".

Fasts and Festivals

The traditional Hindu was a believer in fast or *vrathams*. Though the observance of fasts is not very popular now, it still has its hold on the orthodox sections of the community. The important fasts are those undertaken on the *Shashti, Ekadasi, Pradosham, Full Moon* and *New Moon* days. The object of these fasts is to propitiate Gods of one description or other and secure spiritual benefits.

The Hindus observe a number of religious festivals. In *Chingam* (August-September) the *Ashtami Rohini*, the sacred day on which Lord Krishna was born, is celebrated. Throughout the State the day is declared a public holiday. The *Navaratri* festival falls in Kanni (September-October). It is also known by the name of *Ayudha Pooja*. It is a nine days festival and is a favourable period for the worship of *Sakthi*. The last three days are set apart for the worship of Saraswathi. Throughout the *Durgashtami, Mahanavami* and *Vijaya Dasami* days the worshippers are prohibited from doing their customary work. It is worth mentioning that students, especially of the Hindu community, refrain from their regular studies during these days. The *Vijayadasami* or *Pooja Eduppu* day is regarded as auspicious for the beginning of children's education—*Vidyarambha*. *Narakachaturdasi* or *Deepavali* falls in the month of Thulam (October-November). It is also known as

the festival of lights. The festivities associated with *Deepavali* in the neighbouring Trivandrum District or the Tamil country are however missing here. *Trikkarthika* is another festival which falls in the month of Vrischigam (November-December). Its main feature is the illumination of Hindu houses in the night. *Maha Sivaratri,* the day on which Lord Siva danced the *Thandava* dance, is celebrated in Kumbhom (February-March) in the Quilon District as elsewhere in the country. The day is declared a public holiday throughout the State.

The most important festival of the Malayalees celebrated on a very grand scale by all irrespective of caste or creed, age or sex, is *Onam.* It is the harvest festival of Kerala and falls in the month of Chingam (August-September). The festival lasts for ten days of which the last four are more important than the rest. A proverb runs, "Pledge your land and perform Onam". According to tradition it is celebrated in memory of Mahabali, the mythological king, who ruled gloriously over Kerala and under whom all people were happy and who is supposed to revisit the land once a year. All over the District during the *Onam* season children engage themselves in various kinds of sports and women take it as an opportunity to enjoy themselves in *Kaikottikali* and other games. The pervading spirit of *Onam* is brotherhood and peace and all feuds and quarrels are supposed to be forgotten.

The festival of Vishu which falls on the first day of Medam (April-May), the Malayalee New Year Day, is observed not only by the people of the District but by all Malayalees. It may be noted that the day also coincides with the Tamil New Year Day. The most important ceremony connected with Vishu is the *Kani Kanal* (literally having the first sight). On the night previous to the Vishu day the *Kani* is arranged. It consists of a number of things believed to be auspicious. Cadjan leaf-book, gold ornaments, newly white cloth, a measure of rice or paddy, bell-metal mirror, halved jack fruit, flowers of the *Konna* tree, halved coconut, yellow cucumber and two standing oil lamps with coconut oil emitting sparkling light are placed in a convenient room. On the morning of Vishu day every member of the family gets up early and sees the *kani.* The Malayalee believes that if he sees these auspicious things on the first day of the New Year, the whole of the year will be lucky for him. Children and poor people get gifts of money from elders on the Vishu day. This is called *Vishu Kaineettam.*

Thiruvathira, another characteristic festival, is observed in Dhanu (December-January). It is of the special importance to females as it is supposed to commemorate the death of Kamadeva (God of Love) who was reduced to ashes by Lord Siva while attempting to wake him up from his penance. But this festival is celebrated on a larger scale in the North of the State than in the South.

CHRISTIANS

Historical Background

Quilon is one of the earliest centres of Christianity in Kerala and the Christians form the second largest community in the District. According to tradition one of the seven churches founded in Kerala by St. Thomas, the Apostle who came here in 52 A.D. was located at Quilon. Cosmos Indicopleustus, the Byzantine monk who came early in the 6th century A.D., testifies to the existence of a Christian church in Quilon. The Tarisapalli Copper Plates dated 849 A.D. also bear witness to the existence of a prosperous Christian community in Quilon enjoying several privileges conferred on them by the Venad Kings. These early Christians were Syrian Christians.[1] In the later medieval period Quilon was visited by several Latin Christian missionaries like John of Monte Corvino, Friar Jordanus of Severic and John Marignolli. These missionaries baptised hundreds of persons in Quilon and adjoining areas and introduced here the Latin rite for the first time in Kerala. Pope John XXII

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1 The terms 'Syrian Christians' and 'Syrian Church' may be explained in this connection. It is held in certain quarters that the Syrian Christians of Kerala are so called because they are descended from the Christian immigrants, mostly Syrian, who settled here from time to time since the introduction of Christianity on the west coast by St. Thomas in the first century A.D. This assumption is however not correct. The Syrian Christians are so called because they follow the Syrian liturgy. In the words of S. G. Pothan, "Aramaic was the language of Jesus Christ and His Apostles. Syraic is a dialect of Aramaic and became the language of the mother church of Persia and so it was the sacred language of the daughter church in Kerala............Basically, the members of the Church of Kerala are called Syrians, not because they claim Syrian blood in their veins, but mainly because they have a Syrian liturgy. The name is not an ethnological or geographical designation, but is purely ecclesiastical. Their social customs, physiognomy, build, etc., indicate that they are essentially children of the soil like their Hindu brethren". *The Syrian Christians of Kerala,* S. G. Pothan, p. 36.

even constituted Quilon as a Bishopric on August 9, 1329 with Jordanus of Severic as its Bishop. Quilon thus became the First Latin Bishopric in Kerala and Jordanus the first Latin Bishop. But from the 6th to the 16th century A.D. the Church in Kerala was in ecclesiastical communion with the Nestorian Church in Persia and followed the Syriac liturgy, though it enjoyed administrative independence under Archdeacons who were children of the soil. However, the Church did not meet with any appreciable measure of success in the evangelical field till the arrival of the Portuguese and the emergence of Latin rite as an important and permanent factor. The Portuguese were zealous of the propagation of the Roman Catholic faith and they carried on vigorous conversion work among the local population. When Alfonso De Albuquerque came to Quilon he found about 25,000 Christians there. Deeply interested in their welfare he secured for them from the king of Quilon the confirmation of their ancient privileges. In Quilon and surrounding areas a large community of Latin Christians sprang up and grew in the 16th century. The part of the town which the Portuguese got possession of became a great centre of Latin Christianity. According to the description given by Captain Nieuhoff, Quilon contained the monasteries of the Franciscans and of the Friars of St. Paul (Jesuits) "adorned with stately chapels and steeples". Towards the middle of the 17th century the Portuguese power declined and was replaced by the Dutch power, and a part of the Christian Church which was under the Pope freed itself from the Roman influence and became independent under local Bishops. Episcopal succession was received through the Jacobite Patriarch in Antioch. Thus began the Antiochan connection with the Malabar Church.

In the beginning of the 19th century the British power was acknowledged by the Government of Travancore, and with this the Church Mission Society of London began work in the Syrian Church. For one generation there was co-operation between the Syrian Bishops and the C. M. S. Missionaries. But the second generation of Missionaries had to break off their connection with Syrian Bishops and Church and had to carry on work on their own. Thus an Anglican Church also came into existence. The C.M.S. Missionaries concentrated their attention on work among non-Christians, especially among the lower castes in the Hindu community. There were some priests of the Syrian Church who had been greatly influenced by the C.M.S. Missionaries, but they did not want to identify

themselves with a Western Church, however much they were in love with its teachings. Therefore in the light of the new understanding of the teachings of the Bible which they got from the Western Missionaries, they effected certain reforms in the Syrian Church under the leadership of Abraham Malpan of Maramon. Malayalam thus came to replace Syriac as the language of worship in church. These reforms were looked upon with disfavour by the Bishops and Clergy of the Syrian Church. Eventually the Reformers were excommunicated by the Metropolitan of the Jacobite Syrian Church. Abraham Malpan however continued in his reformed teachings and he and his followers organised themselves for worship. He was able to get a Bishop, Mathews Mar Athnasius, consecrated by the Patriarch of Antioch himself. Litigation in court for the possession of church property and the title of the Metropolitan continued for many years. The reformed section of the Syrian Church under Abraham Malpan and the new Metropolitan, Mathews Mar Athnasius, came to be known as the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, separate from the Jacobite Syrian Church, the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church in Malabar. Thus it may be seen that in the course of 19 centuries, the one Church of St. Thomas in Malabar, branched off into different streams as a result of the influence or domination of foreign Churches. Consequently we have today in Kerala (1) The Nestorian Church, now confined to Trichur and Ernakulam with a congregation in Trivandrum, (2) The Roman Catholic Church spread out all over Kerala, (3) The Jacobite Syrian Church, now known as the Orthodox Church, (4) The Anglican Church now part of the Church of South India and (5) The Mar Thoma Syrian Church.[1]

Christian Denominations

Both the Catholics and the Protestants are dominant communities in this District. The most important sects among the Catholics are those who belong to the Latin Church, the Syro-Malabar Church and the Malankara Syrian Church. All

1. Each of these Churches is to be dealt with in detail in some District volume or other. The Nestorian Church has been considered in the *Trichur District Gazetteer*. The Syro-Malabar Church and the Latin Catholic Church, the premier Catholic Churches, will come in for detailed consideration in the *Ernakulam District Gazetteer*, the Orthodox Church and the Church of South India in the *Kottayam District Gazetteer* and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in the *Alleppey District Gazetteer*.

these three sects owe ultimate allegiance to the Pope of Rome. Among the Catholics of the District the Latin Catholics form the major sect. They are under the Bishop of Quilon who is himself under the Archbishop of Verapoly or Varapuzha (Ernakulam District). The Syrian Catholics (ie., of the Syro-Malabar Church) are under the Archbishop of Changanacherry and the Malankara Syrians are under the Archbishop of Trivandrum. The Syrian Catholics and the Malankara Syrians come only next to the Latin Catholics in numerical strength in this District. The Latin Catholics use Latin as their language in all their religious ceremonies. The Syrian Catholics use the Syriac language and the Malankara Syrians the Malayalam language. Thus there are in this District different rites in the Roman Catholic Church offering the sacrifice of mass in three different languages. In doctrine and teaching there is no difference between the Syrian, Latin and Malayalam rites. It is only for convenience of administration and for historical reasons that the Syrian, Latin and Malayalam rites are under three different churches.

The Protestants of the District belong to the following sects, viz., Jacobite or Orthodox Syrian Church, Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Church of South India, Salvation Army, Lutheren Mission, Pentecost, Brother Mission, Bible Faith Mission and the St. Thomas Evangelical Church. Of these the most important are the Jacobite or Orthodox Syrians and the Mar Thoma Syrians. They form the dominant Christian sects in Pathanamthitta, Kottarakara and Kunnathur Taluks. Protestant Missions belonging to the other denominations may also be seen working in different parts of this District. The Pentecost has been active in Kottarakara and the Salvation Army at Adur in Kunnathur and Ranni in Pathanamthitta. The Church of South India carries on propaganda work in the Quilon and Pathanamthitta Taluks.

Christian Religious Beliefs and Practices

The most important religious festivals among the Christians irrespective of sect are Christmas and Easter. But the religious beliefs and practices differ from sect to sect. Those of the Latin Catholics, the Jacobite (Orthodox) Syrians and Mar Thoma Christians, the three dominant Christian sects in this District, are given below.[1]

1 The accounts of the religious faith and practices of the Christian sects have been taken from the *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. I, T. K. Velu Pillai, pp. 784-790,.

Latin Catholics

1. They believe in the existence of one God in three Persons; the Second Person called the Son is from all eternity generated from the First Person, called the Father; the Third Person, called the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father and the Son from all eternity; this is what they call the .**'Holy Trinity'**.

2. They believe that God, the Self-existing Being, has created heaven and earth as well as man, since none of the created beings have in themselves the reason or the ground of their existence.

3. They believe that the **first man** was created in a perfect state and that in him the whole human nature was elevated to a supernatural state and endowed with supernatural grace through which man, after his death, was able to see and love God as He is; but the **first man**, by committing sin, lost for himself and for the whole human race, which he represented, the sanctifying or the supernatural grace, and since that moment the human nature is transmitted to the posterity without sanctifying grace; This they call **'Original Sin'**.

4. They believe that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became man, that is to say, assumed to himself real human nature in order to atone for the sin by His Passion and death, and to show man the way to heaven by imparting to them His Divine Doctrine; this is what they call the **'Work of Redemption'**.

5. They believe that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity assumed human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary what is called **"Incarnation"**—through the special intervention of the Holy Ghost; so they believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the **'Mother of God'**.

6. They believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary, so intimately connected with the Holy Trinity, Who is sanctity Himself, was conceived in grace, without the original sin, and this they call the **Immaculate Conception** of Blessed Virgin Mary.

7. They believe that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity after becoming man (and called Christ) while living in this world, instituted a perfect society called the **Church**, and invested it and its head, the Pope, with an infallible authority to teach the Word of God, and at the same time to administer the **Seven Sacraments** or external Rites instituted by Him for the sanctification of men.

The Seven Sacraments are:—(a) Baptism; (b) Confirmation; (c) Holy Eucharist or Last Supper; (d) Penance; (e) Extreme Unction; (f) Holy Ordination; (g) Matrimony.

8. They believe that those who die well or in the love of God—what they call 'sanctifying grace'—go either to Heaven or Purgatory: straight to Heaven those who are perfectly pure, and to Purgatory those who—though in sanctifying grace—have not yet atoned for all the penalties of their sins; but they too go to heaven after atoning for the penalties. Those, however, who die in mortal sin go to hell.

9. They pray to Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints and venerate their images.

10. They pray for the dead.

11. In the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass they use unleavened bread, and do not administer the Holy Communion to lay-flock under the species of wine.

12. They have auricular confession.

13. They follow the New Calendar.

Orthodox (Jacobite) Syrians

1. They believe that the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father and taketh from the Son.

2. They believe in the one nature of Christ; perfect Divinity, and perfect Humanity inseparably united. But their faith is different from the teachings of Eutychus.

3. They follow the Nicene Creed as established in the two Ecumenical Councils of Nice and Constantinople and confirmed in the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus.

4. They believe in Seven Sacraments, viz.,

i. Baptism (They use Mooron (Chrysm) and Mesaho in Baptism). (ii) Mooron Oil (Chrysm). (iii) Holy Qurbana (Lord's Supper). (iv) Confession. (v) Matrimony. (vi) Ordination. (vii) Anointing the sick.

5. Communion is served in one kind. Bread and wine mixed.

6. They use leavened bread in Qurbana (Mass).

7. They have auricular confession.

8. Eucharistic service is held even when there are no communicants other than the officiating priest.

9. Holy Communion is administered for the remission of sins also.

10. They pray for the dead.

11. They pray to Virgin Mary and Saints.

12. The immaculate conception of Virgin Mary and 'infallibility' have not been accepted by them as their doctrines.

13. They do not believe in purgatory.

14. They have no images and do not adore them.

15. They follow the old Calendar.

Mar Thoma Syrians

1. They accept and receive the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments consisting of sixty six books as of supreme authority in all matters of faith and doctrine.

2. They believe in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, worshipped and adored as the one only true God.

3. They believe that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of mankind, is the express image of God, truly God and truly man.

4. They hold that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father.

5. They believe that faith in Lord Jesus Christ is the means of full and free salvation. This salvation implied assurance of forgiveness of sins the enjoyment of new life and power which enable one to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, thus being empowered to fulfil the Will of God, and finds its consummation in the perfect glorification of body, soul and spirit at Christ's coming.

6. They hold that the Nicene Creed is a symbol of faith, never to be altered.

7. They accept the threefold ministry of Semmas (Deacon) Kaseesa (Presbyter) and Episcopa (Bishop) as an institution, handed down from the Primitive Church and to be maintained at all times and under all circumstances.

8. They hold that Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist (Qurbana) are the only two sacraments ordained by Christ himself and are pre-eminent among the holy rites of the Church, which serve as means of Divine Grace. The other five traditional sacraments—Confession, Ordination, Matrimony, Extreme Unction and use of Anointing Oil (Mooron) at Baptism are in common practice in the Church, though not valued as sacraments on a level with the first two. Confession practised is public and general and not private and individual.

9. They use leavened bread and administered bread and wine separately in Holy Eucharist. There is no celebration of the Eucharist when there are no communicants.

10. They believe that in the Holy Eucharist, through remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary, the communicants partake of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

11. They do not practise prayers for the dead, invocation of Saints, adoration of Virgin Mary and veneration of images.

12. They hold that the doctrines of Immaculate Conception, Purgatory and Infalibility are unscriptural.

Muslims

Islam was introduced in Kerala early in the 8th Century A.D. and it is believed to have found its way into Quilon soon thereafter. According to the *Tohfut-ul-Mujahideen* Quilon along with Cranganore was one of the earliest centres of Muslim proselytising activity in Kerala. The Muslims today form the third important religious community in Quilon. They are found mainly in the Karunagapally, Pathanapuram and Quilon Taluks. Among the Taluks of erstwhile Travancore State, Karunagapally had the second largest percentage of Muslims in its population. The Muslims of Quilon form a homogeneous community. They belong to the Sunni sect. Their main occupation is trade and consequently they are seen in large numbers in urban or semi-urban areas rather than in rural areas. There are mosques in all important Muslim centres, and the priest of the Mosque called *Musaliar* has to be present at all ceremonies connected with marriage, death etc. among Muslims. The Muslims observe the various fasts and festivals prescribed in the *Quran*. The most important of them are the *Ramzan, Muharram* and *Bakrid*. Some of the local Muslim celebrations like *Chandanakudam* are now being given up as irreligious under the impact of reform movements.[1]

Manners and Customs

Though each caste and community has its own ceremonies, the general customs and manners of the people have conformed more or less to a common pattern. The *Talikettukalyanam,*

1 For a detailed account of Muslim religious practices, etc., see *Kozhikode District Gazetteer*.

Tiranduküli, Pulikudi, etc., which once formed the main ceremonies among the Nairs and the Ezhavas, etc., have now become defunct. Nevertheless, they may be briefly described here in order to give the reader an insight into the traditional Hindu Society. *Talikettukalyanam* was performed for all girls before they attained puberty. A *Tali* or small piece of gold attached to a string was tied round the neck of the girl by a male belonging to the same or higher caste. But this is to be distinguished from the *Tali* tying in a marriage ceremony. Here the *Tali* tier did not have any claim on the girl as the *Talikettukalyanam* was not a real marriage. It was done with a view to giving the girl a marriageable status. The ceremony of *Tirandukuli* was celebrated when a girl attained puberty. The girl was kept in a separate room for about four days. In the room a lamp was lit and a brass pot with a bunch of coconut flowers was kept. Friends and relatives were invited and treated to a sumptuous feast. The girl used to get presents from the guests. Another ceremony viz., *Pulikudi* (tamarind juice drinking) was quite essential for pregnant women in the ninth month of pregnancy. Even now it is the practice among all sections of the community to invite the pregnant girl to her house and to treat her well.

Some of the ceremonies which are still current among the Hindus are *Namakaranam, Chorunu, Vidyarambham, Upanayanam, Sradha*, etc. The *Namakaranam* or naming ceremony is celebrated within a month of the child's birth. The father sits cross-legged before a lighted lamp, near which is placed a vessel containing the eight auspicious things (*ashtamangalyam*)[1]. After the usual preliminaries he places the child on his lap and whispers the proposed name three times in its right ear. Friends and relatives assemble and bless the family. *Annaprasanam* or *Chorunu* takes place when the child is six months old. This is the first feeding of the child with rice. The mother brings the child after bathing it, and places it on the lap of the father. The child is then given rice and curries. This ceremony is performed in temples also. *Vidyarambham* or initiation into the letters of the alphabet is gone through in the 3rd or 5th year of the child. Usually on the *Vijayadasami* day (*Pooja Eduppu Day*) the father takes the child on his knees

1 The eight auspicious things are a measure of paddy, rice, an absolutely white cloth, an arrow, a lighted lamp, a looking glass, a blossom of the coconut palm and a cheppu. *History of Kerala*, Vol. III, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 271.

and writes the alphabets, the letters being traced in rice by the father holding the ring finger of the child. *Upanayanam* which is common among the Brahmins is the investiture of the boy with the sacred thread. It is generally performed in the 8th year and the performance of this ceremony makes him twice born i.e., a Brahman. All Brahmins, both Malayali and Tamil, perform this ceremony. *Sradha* is the ceremony of making offerings to the departed spirits of forefathers. This is performed every year. Cooked rice, plantain fruits, coconuts, parched rice, etc., are served as offerings on a plantain leaf and kept in a room with a lamp in front of it. After some time the room is opened and the offerings are distributed among the family members.

Many of the birth and childhood customs prevalent in the Hindu community have been found among the Christians and Muslims also in some form or other. This is due to the fact that both Christianity and Islam had been receiving converts into their fold from Hinduism and the converts have shown even after conversion a tendency to retain some of the traditional customs of their Hindu ancestors. Caste prejudices which are inherent in Hinduism have found a place among some sections of Christians also. Even today there exists in the Christian fold a sect known as Depressed Class Christians who are mainly converts from among the Scheduled Castes and the Government give them too most of the concessions allowed to the Scheduled Castes in the Hindu community. The statement of Edgar Thurston in his *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* (1909) that some Christians make offerings to Hindu temples with as much reverence as they do in their own Churches perhaps does not hold good at the present time.[1] But it is seen that Christians have as much faith in astrology as Hindus and they get horoscopes cast for new-born babies.[2] This is true in regard to the Muslims also to a certain extent. The Christians as well as the Muslims tie round the neck of the bride a *tali* on the wedding day. This custom is prevalent among almost all classes of native Christians and Muslims and is a product of

1 Please see *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. VI, Edgar Thurston, pp. 408-58, for a brief account of the Syrian Christian community.

2. In this connection attention is invited to *The Syrian Christians of Kerala* by S. G. Pothan wherein the theories of Christian origin in Kerala and the customs and sociological background of the Syrian Christians are discussed in detail.

Hindu influence. It may however be mentioned in this context that the Pentecost section of the Christian community in Quilon and elsewhere do not use the *tali* or any gold ornament on the wedding day.[1] The anniversary ceremony for the soul of the dead corresponding to the *Sradha* of the Hindus is performed by Christians with services in the Church and feasts in their house. The Muslims also conduct an anniversary ceremony known as *khathom* for the soul of the dead. *Musaliars* and other learned men guide the ceremony. Poor people are given meals in the Muslim house. The Christians and some Muslims also celebrate the *Onam* festival which was confined to the Malayali Hindus till recently. Most of these customs and manners of the Christians and Muslims have no religious sanction whatsoever behind them and are modelled on those of the Hindus.

Funeral Ceremonies

The funeral ceremonies among all castes and communities are almost the same throughout the State though there are slight local variations. When the Hindu breathes his last the junior members pour a few drops of water or milk into his mouth. Relatives and others are immediately informed when the person dies. The body is placed at the central court-yard with the head to the south. It is then washed and marks of *bhasma* (sacred ash) and sandal paste are made on the forehead and joints. The body is laid on a long plantain leaf after it is covered with new clothes especially silk of redhue. Then it is removed to a bed of fresh-cut bamboo and taken to the cremation ground on the shoulders by the nearest relatives, e.g., sons, nephews, etc. Before the cremation blood relations put rice (*vaikari*) in the mouth of the dead body. While in the Trivandrum District and in some parts of Quilon dried cow dung is used for the purpose of cremation, it is seen that in various parts of this District the mango tree is felled down and cut into pieces and used as fuel for cremation. The eldest son who is the chief mourner tears a piece from the wrapped new cloth and wears it round the waist, tucking to his waist a piece of iron. This is done before setting fire to the pyre. The chief mourner with a pot of water goes round the pyre thrice letting the water out from a pierced hole. Then he

1 The Pentecost sect does not use any ornament on any occasion and they do not take medicines or get themselves treated when they are afflicted by disease. In social customs they are different from other Christian sects and other communities.

allows the pot on the head to fall from his back. The *sanchayana* or the ceremony of the disposal of the bones of the dead person is done on the 4th or the 7th day. The mourners collect unburnt bones and ash and these are put in a mud pot covered with another and is buried underneath a jack tree. On a later occasion they are carried to some holy place and consigned to the river. On the death of a person the *Beliyidal* (offering of rice balls) continues till the period of pollution is over which may be for 16 days or less.

Among the Christians, on the death of a person the body is washed, covered with new clothes and placed in a room facing the East with a cross at the head and candles at either side. The news of the death is announced to the public by the ringing of the church bell. Prayers are said in the house by the priest. A ceremony of anointing with oil also takes place. When all are assembled the funeral procession starts. The body is taken to the Churchyard in a coffin which is decorated and has on it three or four lighted candles with a cross between them. Before the actual burial as the body is being taken into the Churchyard the Church bell rings again. Hymns are also sung. Then the coffin is lowered into the grave and the priest sprinkles earth on it in the form of the sign of the cross. At the end of the funeral the relatives and mourners return home and they are served with *conjee* (gruel of rice). Prayers (*Qurbanas*) for the peace of the soul are held during the whole period of mourning. At the end of the seventh day a feast is conducted.

Among the Muslims, when a person breathes his last his nearest relatives recite the *kalima* in his ears. Immediately after his death the pillow on which his head rested is removed. The body is then neatly washed and covered with clean clothes. The *Mullas* and the relatives read the *Quran* until the body is taken to the mosque. The dead body is washed again and then it is covered with new clothes on which rose water is sprinkled and grains of camphor strewn. It is then taken to the mosque in a bier. In the mosque relatives and local people offer prayers with the dead body before them. Then it is placed in the grave with great solemnity amidst the chanting of holy hymns. The *Maulud* ceremony is performed on the 3rd, 7th or 15th and 40th days after death. Those who can afford arrange for the reading of the *Quran* for a few days by a group of persons in a small pavilion temporarily built on the tomb. During this time alms are distributed among the poor.

Inter-Caste Relations

There was a time when inter-caste relations were very rigid in this District as elsewhere in Kerala. Within each caste there were also several sub-castes. The relations between the various castes and sub-castes were hardly free. But the sub-caste more than the caste was the institution perpetuating segregation and social exclusiveness. In the words of K. M. Panikkar, "What has existed and mattered much more than the notional division into four castes and what to some extent constitutes the evil of 'Caste-ism' is the system of innumerable 'sub-castes' each divided again and again, converting the Hindu people into an inchoate mass of small units. The three thousand *major* units of caste enumerated in earlier census returns constitute a factor of the highest sociological importance. These castes are rigidly exclusive and each claims superiority over the other. Neither inter-marriage nor 'inter-dining' is normally permitted between them. They are aliens to each other in social life."[1] Long established custom also prevented the members of certain castes defined as untouchables and unapproachables from enjoying in full the rights of citizenship. Not only were they denied entry into temples but were also not admitted into Government service. However, the last few decades have witnessed the break-down of inter-caste and inter-sub-caste barriers. The spread of English education, the increasing contacts with Europeans, the migration of population from the rural to the urban areas, the rapid expansion of the means of communication, the movement for temple entry sponsored by the Indian National Congress, the social reform movements led by Sri Chattampi Swamikal and Sri Narayana Guru and above all the introduction of adult franchise have contributed to the break-down of caste barriers. Even the very fact of the early existence of sub-castes in their communities has now been forgotten by several Hindu communities like the Nairs, Ezhavas, etc. Inter-dining which was once prohibited between the castes and sub-castes is now practically the order of the day. Even inter-caste marriages have begun to take place not infrequently and it is even the policy of the Kerala Government to encourage such marriages with Harijans by making lump sum grants of Rs. 500 to deserving parties. At the same time the sub-caste barriers which operated in the past in the case of marriages have now become a thing of the past. This is a clear indication of the fact that the fusion of sub-castes

1 *Hindu Society at Cross Roads*, K. M. Panikkar, p. 36.

among the Nairs, Ezhavas, etc., has become an accomplished fact.

Religious Reform Movements

Though no reputed Hindu religious leader hails from this District, Quilon was powerfully influenced by the modern social and religious reform movements which originated in the neighbouring District of Trivandrum under the leadership of Chattampi Swamikal, the Nair reformist and Sri Narayana Guru, the Ezhava religious leader.[1] In view of the prominent position held by these leaders in the Nair and Ezhava communities it was only natural that they exercised a dominant influence on the public life of this District. Chattampi Swamikal attained *Samadhi* at Panmana in the Karunagapally Taluk in 1924 and the temple and *asramam* built by his devotees at this place are visited by large numbers of people. Sri Narayana Guru had his headquarters at Varkala in the neighbouring Trivandrum District, and from here he supplied the moral and spiritual leadership to the Ezhava community in Quilon District. It was his campaign against the observance of some of the customary rituals and ceremonies like *talikettu, tirandukalyanam* etc. by the Ezhavas that persuaded large sections among them to give up these irrational practices which led to extravagant expenditure and economic impoverishment of the community. The Swami also advocated the break-down of the barriers of caste as a means of achieving social cohesion and evolving a classless and casteless society. Quilon developed into one of the strongholds of Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana (S.N.D.P.) Yogam, the mass organisation of the Ezhavas, with which Sri Narayana Guru was actively associated since its inception. It retains this position even today.

PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE

Kerala is the traditional home of *Marumakkathayam* or the matrilineal system of inheritance.[2] Till 1912 this was the

1 Brief accounts of the career and achievements of these two religious leaders can be had from Chapter III of the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 275-78.

2 A detailed analysis of the various theories regarding the origin of *Marumakkathayam* is given in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 280-85.

dominant system of inheritance that prevailed in the Quilon District. Under *Marumakkathayam* all descent is traced through the female line or through the sister's children, a man's own children having no legal claim to his property. The *tarawad* property was the joint property of all the members and each member was entitled to maintenance from it, though he could not claim partition. Partition was possible only with the consent of all the members. A dominant feature of the *Marumakkathayam* society was that the *karanavan* (the head of the family) was an autocrat who often came into conflict with his *anandaravans* (junior male members of the family). The Nairs constituted the most important *Marumakkathayam* community in the District till a few decades ago. The Ezhavas of Quilon had also followed the same system, though the widow and her children were privileged to remain in her husband's house for one full year after his death and enjoy all the property belonging to him.[1] In addition to the Nairs and the Ezhavas the Ambalavasis and Kshatriyas were also *Marumakkathayis*. The Christians and the Muslims have followed the *Makkathayam* or patrilineal system, but it should be noted that there have been a few Muslims in the Paravur and Mayyanad area of Quilon Taluk who have followed the *Marumakkathayam* law. Some of the Hill Tribes follow a peculiar system of inheritance which is a mixture of *Marumakkathayam* and *Makkathayam*, the assets of the deceased being divided equally between his sons and nephews.

One of the most far-reaching social changes of our time in Kerala is the disintegration of the *Marumakkathayam* society. The autocratic powers exercised by the *karanavan* in the joint family provoked the revolt of the younger generation against the system and led to the enactment of several legislative measures in the erstwhile Travancore State. The movement for the abolition of the *Marumakkathayam* law of succession among the Nairs was sponsored by the Nair Service Society and it won the support of all progressive sections of

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1 Three forms of inheritance were prevalent among the Ezhavas of erstwhile Travancore, viz., (1) *Makkathayam* (inheritance from father to son) in the extreme South, (2) *Marumakkathayam* in all the Taluks to the North of Quilon and (3) a mixture of the two systems between Neyyattinkara and Quilon. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Edgar Thurston, Vol. II, p. 410.

the community. In 1083 K.E. (1907-1908) the Travancore Government appointed a committee of officials and non-officials with A. Govinda Pillai, a Judge of the Travancore High Court, as President. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, the eminent historian of Kerala, was one of its members. The members of the committee visited various parts of the State, examined witnesses and submitted their report recommending reform in the law of inheritance. A Bill was introduced by the Government in the Legislature and passed into law as Act I of 1088 K.E. (1912 A.D.). The measure no doubt represented a great advance, but it did not provide for the partition of Nair *tarawads*, the shares being calculated *per capita*. On the other hand, it sanctioned half of the self-acquired property of a male to his children and the other half to his nephews. The first Nair Act therefore failed to satisfy the aspirations of the progressive sections of the Nair community. A new Bill was introduced in the Legislature by a non-official member in 1092 K.E. (1916-1917 A.D.) in order to amend the first Nair Act by making provision for *tavazhi* partition. But the motion was lost, the official members having voted *en bloc* against the measure. In 1097 K.E. (1921-1922 A.D.) another non-official bill was introduced into the Legislature and it was passed into law as Act II of 1100 (1925 A.D.). The Bill was ably piloted by Changanacherry K. Parameswaran Pillai. In the course of the discussion on the Bill it was pointed out by its critics that unrestricted right to demand partition would lead to fragmentation of holdings and the splitting up of property. But the Legislature brushed aside such criticisms and signified its acceptance of the social change proposed in the Bill. The Nair Act was soon followed by the enactment of the Ezhava Act, (1925) and the Nanjanad Vellala Act, (1926) providing for transition from the *Marumakkathayam* to the *Makkathayam* law of inheritance for these *Marumakkathayam* communities also. Legislation has thus made vast sections of the Hindu community *Makkathayis* in recent times and brought about the destruction of the old Hindu joint family. Nevertheless some of the old *Marumakkathayam* customs and traditions have not been affected by legislation. The divided members still retain some of their old family ties. The lingering influence of the old system may be seen in the observance of certain customary ceremonies and death and birth pollutions by the erstwhile *Marumakkathayam* communities even today.

MARRIAGE AND MORALS

Monogamy and Polygamy

Polygamy prevailed among several sections of the Hindu community till a few decades ago. It was practised by the Namboothiris, Kshatriyas, Nairs, Ezhavas, Pulayas, Kuravas, etc. In recent times enlightened legislation and public opinion have brought about a monogamous society. The Travancore Nair Act of 1925 made polygamy illegal. Similar legal prohibition was imposed in the case of the Ezhavas, Vellalas, Namboothiris and the Kshatriyas. The legal responsibility of maintaining the wife and children imposed by law also made polygamous marriages less attractive to the higher castes like the Brahmins and the Kshatriyas. Legislative and legal action thus contributed to the progressive decline of polygamy. However, it was not the only factor in the decline of the custom. The dissemination of progressive ideas in the wake of the spread of English education created a feeling of revulsion against the custom in all communities. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 which has made monogamy both general and compulsory for all classes of Hindus all over the country seeks to deal a final death blow to the practice of polygamy and ere long a completely monogamous society is sure to emerge. It should, however, be stated that though monogamy is now accepted by almost all castes and communities among Hindus, stray cases of the practice of polygamy by certain sections among them cannot be ruled out. It is seen that some of the Hill Tribes like the Kanikkars practise polygamy on a small scale even today. As for the Christians polygamy was prohibited among them both by law and religion. Among the Muslims it was not prohibited by law or custom, but public opinion and considerations of economy have discouraged this practice. The 1951 Census figures pertaining to the civil condition of the people show that the percentages of married males and females were almost equal in the Quilon District. This is also proof of the fact that polygamy has become very rare.

Polyandry

Polyandry was quite common in ancient times among certain Hindu communities in Quilon as in other parts of Kerala. It is even suggested that polyandry must have been the real origin of the institution of the *Marumakkathayam*

in Kerala.[1] The prevalence of polyandry among Nairs has been noted by several foreign travellers who visited this country. In a note on the Nairs in the 16th century Caesar Frederick writes as follows. "These Nairs having their wives common amongst themselves, and when any of them go into the house of any of these women, he leaveth his swords and target at the door, and the time that he is there, there dare not be any so hardie as to come into that house".[2] Hamilton writing in the 18th Century and Buchanan and Mateer in the 19th have also recorded the existence of this custom among the Nairs. Polyandry is of two kinds, fraternal and non-fraternal. The Nairs and Ezhavas of this District followed fraternal polyandry. Polyandry of the same type was prevalent among the Kammalas who led the most precarious existence and had therefore to observe the strictest economy. Samuel Mateer noted the prevalence of fraternal polyandry among the Kammalas in the 19th century. He writes, "The custom of one woman having several husbands is sometimes practised by carpenters, stone masons and individuals of other castes. Several brothers living together are unable to support a single for each and take one, who resides with them all. The children are reckoned to belong to each brother in succession in the order of seniority".[3] Referring to the practice of polyandry among the Kammalas early in this century Edgar Thurston writes as follows. "The eldest brother cohabits with the bride on the wedding day, and special days are set apart for each brother. There seems to be a belief among the Kammalan women that, the more husbands they have, the greater will be their happiness. If one of the brothers, on the ground of incompatibility of temper, brings a new wife, she is privileged to cohabit with the other brothers. In some cases, a girl will have brothers ranging in age from twenty-five to five, whom she has to regard as her husbands, so that by the time the youngest reaches puberty she may be well over thirty, and a young man has to perform the duties of a husband with a woman who is twice his age".[4] With the growth of education and the spread

1 *Malabar and Its Folk*, T. K. Gopala Panikkar, p. 34.

2 Quoted in the *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. V, Edgar Thurston, pp. 308-9.

3 Quoted in the *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. III, Edgar Thurston, pp. 138-9.

4 *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, Vol. III, Edgar Thurston, pp. 130-31.

of liberal ideas, polyandry came to be looked down upon as a sign of the lack of civilisation. Hence it has now been given up by most of the communities which at one time practised it. However, it is seen that some of the Hill Tribes practise polyandry even now. While the non-fraternal type of polyandry is found among the Mannans the fraternal form prevails among the Malapandarams.

Traditional restrictions on marriage alliances

Marriage alliances among all castes and communities are subject to certain traditional restrictions based on caste and the degree of relationship between the parties. Thus the Nairs and the Ezhavas do not intermarry with each other. Nor do the Catholics and the Protestants. The common practice is for the member of a caste or community to marry from within the same caste or community. Nevertheless there have been exceptions to this rule. For example, among the Namboothiris till recently only the eldest son was permitted to marry from within the caste, the younger members consorting with women belonging to certain other communities, particularly the Nairs. The Nair women considered it even an honour to have *sambandham* with Namboothiris for the simple reason that the latter belonged to a superior caste. As a result of the agitation among the Namboothiris the Travancore Malayala Brahmin Act was passed permitting Namboothiri males to marry within their own community and consequently marriages between Namboothiri men and Nair women have become rare in recent times. Among almost all castes and communities marriage between near blood relations is also prohibited. That blood cannot mate with blood is an accepted dictum. The Tamil Brahmins are divided into a number of endogamous sub-divisions or *gotrams* which cannot inter-marry. Marriage with a daughter of a maternal uncle or paternal aunt is prevalent among Tamil Brahmins and it is even claimed as a matter of right on either side. Marriage with a sister's daughter is also not uncommon among them. The Nairs observe in their marriages the same rules relating to prohibited degree of relationship as are observed by Tamil Brahmins with the one difference that marriage with a sister's daughter does not take place. Thus among Nairs the children of brothers and sisters enter into marital relationship. However, the children of sisters do not marry each other. Nor do the children of brothers. Some of the Hill

Tribes also observe in their marriage certain rules based on the degree of relationship. The marriage of cross-cousins is common among them as it not only keeps families together, but also prevents disposal of property. Among the Kanikkars a man usually marries the *murappennu* (maternal uncle's or paternal aunt's daughter). Among the Mala Kuravans the maternal uncle's daughter is the popular bride, but the paternal aunt's daughter is objectionable. Among the Mala Pandarams a man who declines a *murappennu* (daughter of a maternal uncle or paternal aunt) has even to explain his conduct before the tribal Panchayat and if his explanation is not accepted he is outcast. But it has also been stated on the basis of available evidence that owing to the shortage of women even marriage between brother and sister is not objected to among the Mala Pandarams.[1]

Marriage customs and rituals

A detailed survey of the marriage customs and rituals of each caste and sect cannot be attempted here. But those of the most important may be briefly described. The marriage ceremonies of the Nairs and Ezhavas are more or less similar. Among the Nairs custom does not prescribe the tying of *Tali* as an essential condition for the marriage to be valid. But among the Ezhavas the tying of the *Tali* is as much an essential of the marriage as the presentation of cloth by the husband to the wife. Though the marriages are arranged by parents the parties concerned often get the right of selection of bride or bridegroom as the case may be. It is also customary to compare the horoscopes of the parties before the marriage is actually settled. If the horoscopes are found to agree a ceremony called *Jathakamkoda* is held in the bride's house. The actual marriage ceremony takes place later. Usually it is celebrated in the house of the bride. But at present several marriages are conducted in temples as it is considered more economical and convenient to do so. In this District a large number of marriages take place in the Oachira temple where feasts are also arranged by the parties. If the marriage is held in the bride's house a temporary *pandal* is put up and specially decorated for the occasion. A circular design is drawn on the floor by rice-flour mixed in water. Three standing oil lamps (*Nilavilakkus*) are placed near the entrance in the eastern side of the hall. A big receptacle

1 *Hill Tribes of Kerala*, A. A. D Luiz, p. 143.

with paddy and coconut flourescence fixed in it is placed in the centre. Two smaller receptacles with flower and parched paddy, a bell-metal mirror and a *grandha* (sacred book) are also kept in the hall. On arrival the bridegroom with his party is received with *Ashtamangalyam* or the eight auspicious things. Also the feet of the bridegroom are washed by the bride's brother. The bridegroom is then brought in and seated with the bride facing the east. The father of the bride joins the hands of his daughter with those of the groom. Flower garlands and gold rings are exchanged between the bride and groom. The *Tali* is also tied round the neck of the bride and sari (formerly *pudava*) is presented to her by the bridegroom. Then she is greeted with *korava*. The invited guests are treated to a sumptuous feast. The ceremony ends with the distribution of lemon and *pansu pari* to the assembled guests.

The marriage customs of the Hill Tribes are peculiar and interesting.[1] Due to the shortage of women run-away marriages are frequent among the Mala Pandarams and there are also cases of brothers sharing a wife. The *Murapennu* or the daughter of the maternal uncle or paternal aunt is however the popular bride. It is the parents who usually arrange and fix the marriage. During the marriage ceremony the bride's father unites the right hand of the bride with the left hand of the bridegroom and prays to the Gods and their ancestors to take good care of the couple. The girl's father presents a garment to the bridegroom. The groom or his sister ties the *Tali*. The ceremony of the couple feeding each other with balls of cooked food is also peculiar. The marriage ceremony of the Mala Pandarams comes to an end with the feast to the assembled guests.

Among the Kochu Velans too the parents settle and arrange the marriage. It is conducted usually at night in the bride's hut. Dancing is quite common at their marriage functions as it is believed that it would please the Gods who in return would bestow greater blessings and happiness on the new couple. Folk songs, eating together and feeding one another form integral parts of the marriage ceremony. The tying of *Tali* is only a minor ritual connected with the marriage.

1 Please see *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 290-91 for a description of the marriage customs of the Kanikkars.

Marital Status of the Population according to Age Groups (1951)

	Males			Females		
	No. per thousand who are					
Age-group	*Unmarried*	*Married*	*Widowed or Divorced*	*Unmarried*	*Married*	*Widowed or Divorced*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
0	15	..	..	15	..	..
1—4	60	..	..	58	..	..
5—14	123	..	..	122	..	..
15—24	84	13	..	47	55	2
25—34	15	54	1	4	61	6
35—44	3	49	2	1	41	9
45—54	..	36	5	..	25	13
55—64	1	21	3	1	10	14
65—74	..	8	3	..	3	9
75 and over	..	3	2	..	1	4
All	301	104	14	248	196	57

It will be seen that 55 per cent of the population were unmarried and the remaining 45 per cent consisted of 38 per cent married and 7 per cent widowed or divorced. The percentages of married males and females were almost equal. 7 per cent of the population who were widowed or divorced consisted mostly of women who had passed their forties. The distribution of unmarried persons in the various age groups would show that there was no child marriage at all in the Quilon District. Moreover, only few members of the age group 15 to 24 were found to have got married. Among the males marriage below 24 years of age was almost uncommon. The modern tendency among educated young men is to postpone their marriages as long as they can. It may be safely assumed that the average age for marriage among women in the District is 20 and that for men 25.

In spite of the complete absence of child marriage in recent years it should be noted that pre-puberty marriages were common till a few decades ago among certain communities like the Tamil Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Nairs. In the wake of the spread of English education such marriages have ceased. However, pre-puberty marriages are reported to take place among some of the Hill Tribes. Child marriage and pre-puberty coition are common among the Kanikkars, the justification for encouraging such custom being that it prevents desertion and divorce.[1]

1 *Hill Tribes of Kerala* (1962), A.A. D Luiz, p. 75.

Divorce

It has already been observed that only 7 per cent of the population were found widowed or divorced in the erstwhile Quilon District during the Census of 1951. The position in regard to civil condition was as follows.

Civil Condition (1951)

Civil Condition		*District*	*Urban*	*Rural*
ALL		1,000	1,000	1,000
Unmarried	Total	549	549	549
	Males	605	610	604
	Females	494	486	495
Married	Total	381	372	382
	Males	370	361	371
	Females	393	383	394
Widowed or Divorced	Total	70	79	69
	Males	25	29	25
	Females	113	131	111

It will be seen from the above table that the proportions of unmarried, married and widowed or divorced persons were 55 per cent, 38 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Among males 60 per cent were unmarried 37 per cent married and 3 per cent were widowers. Among females 47 per cent were unmarried, 39 per cent married and 12 per cent were widowed or divorced. It may be noted that the number of cases of divorce are not alarmingly high. As marriage is considered to be something sacred by all castes and communities divorce is not generally favoured by society. This accounts for the small percentage of divorced or widowed persons. It must however be stated that among the poorer sections of the community like the factory workers, agricultural labourers, and the Hill Tribes several cases of desertion of wives by husbands are noted, though the parties concerned have not gone through any form of legal divorce. One of the most important pieces of legislation pertaining to divorce in recent times is the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 which permits divorce at the instance of either party on grounds of adultery, idiocy or lunacy. Women can sue for judicial separation or divorce. In spite of such legal sanction accorded to divorce, it is doubtful whether the number of divorces would increase on this ground alone. This is because of the fact that the society does not look upon divorce with approval.

Marriage of Widows

Widow marriage is now permitted by law but till recently the custom was not generally favoured by some of the Hindu communities like the Brahmins. The Nairs and the Ezhavas have always permitted widow marriage. The custom of marrying the deceased wife's sister has been found to have been prevalent among them on a small scale. This form of marriage is known as sororate as distinguished from levirate viz., the custom of marrying the deceased brother's wife. The latter custom has also been prevalent to a certain extent. The Hill Tribes have also had no objection to the marriage of widows. The levirate and sororate marriages are prevalent among some of them. While sororate marriages are found among the Mannans, levirate is practised by the Kanikkars. Among the former levirate is not permitted and among the latter the sororate. As for the frequency of widow marriages in general, we have no precise statistical data, but some general conclusions can be arrived at from the Census figures of 1951. It has been stated earlier that during the Census of 1951 among the male population of the District 3 per cent were widowers and among the female population 12 per cent were widowed or divorced. The smaller proportion of widowers is explained by the larger number of marriages among them. In the case of widows social stigma has unfortunately stood in the way of their marriage even in spite of enabling legislation.

Economic dependence of women and their place in Society

Women play an important part in all fields of activity in the District. In recent years they have acquired a large measure of economic independence. Female education has made considerable progress in Quilon and women are found employed in the public services as clerks, typists, teachers etc. There is also a good sprinkling of them among lawyers and doctors. They are active in politics too. It is also seen that some of the educated women prefer to remain unmarried, earning their livelihood by their own labour. At the same time there are also a number of married women who continue to go for work even after marriage and supplement their husbands' income with their own. Not only educated women but also the uneducated are found active in some sphere of life or other. It is a peculiarity of this District that women are employed in large numbers in the cashew factories as well as in the coir and handloom industries. In fact, women

labourers have a special aptitute for shelling the cashewnuts and hence they are employed in large numbers in the cashew industry. They are also employed in considerable numbers in rice pounding and husking as well as in domestic service.

Prostitution, Drinking and Gambling

Social evils like prostitution, drinking and gambling are prevalent in this District as elsewhere in the State. The Travancore-Cochin Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (1951) and the Kerala Gambling Act (1960) are in force in this District. While the former provides for the suppression of brothels and of traffic in women, the latter makes better provision for the punishment of gambling and the keeping of common gambling houses. Prohibition is in force in two Taluks viz., Pathanapuram and Kottarakara. The table given below gives the statistical information relating to the offences that come under the category of prostitution, drinking and gambling.

Number of cases of prostitution, drinking and gambling (1953 to 1960) *

Year	*Cases of Prostitution and Immoral Traffic in Women*	*Cases of drinking*	*Cases of gambling*
1953	..	159	20
1954	..	138	32
1955	..	118	20
1956	..	176	29
1957	..	174	34
1958	3	204	24
1959	24	210	55
1960	15	338	37

HOME LIFE

Dwellings

In regard to dwellings in the Quilon District the following table summarises the information collected at the Census of 1951.

Taluk-wise Statement of Dwellings (1951—Census)

Taluk	*Number of inhabitants per 100 houses* All	Urban	Rural	*Number of houses per Sq. mile of occupied area*
Quilon	608	710	591	550
Kottarakara	566	592	565	244
Pathanapuram	563	591	559	237
Pathanamthitta	571	591	570	283
Kunnathur	540	586	537	266
Karunagapally	549	599	545	607

* Source:—District Superintendent of Police, Quilon.

Five to six inmates per house was the District average. In Quilon Taluk the average was over 6 per house. In regard to urban areas the District average was 6 inmates per house. An analysis relating to distribution of households according to size as per the 1951 Census is also given below.

Distribution of Households according to size (1951)

Size of households	District		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Density	Number	Density	Number	Density
All	1,000	5.51	1,000	5.72	1,000	5.48
Small (3 members or less)	214	2.40	219	2.30	214	2.42
Medium (4 to 6 members)	477	4.98	443	4.90	482	4.98
Large 7 to 9 members)	243	7.73	239	7.75	244	7.72
Very large (10 or more)	66	11.31	99	11.58	60	11.24

It may be seen from the above table that about 48 per cent of the households in the District were medium sized having an average of 5 inmates while 7 per cent had over 11 persons in each. Small households with two or three and large ones with 8 members formed 21 and 24 percent respectively. Very large households having more than 11 persons were seen in urban areas rather than in rural places.

Domestic Architecture

The Malayalis build their houses in strict conformity to the principles of *Tachu Sastra* (Science of Architecture). According to the *Manushyalaya Chandrika*, a standard work devoted exclusively to domestic architecture, "before commencing the building of a house the site has first to be chosen for which rules are laid down as in the case of the construction of temples. A house constructed on ground sloping to the east will bring prosperity, while poverty will ensue if it is constructed on ground sloping westwards. If the ground slopes towards the south-east and the house is situated in the north-west, there will be loss of wealth. An edifice on ground sloping to the south will cause early death of the members thereof; while in the reverse construction quarrelsomeness will result. A house built on the north-east side of the slope will be productive of everything in abundance. A house built on the left and behind a Vishnu temple, on the right of a Siva or Buddha temple, or by the side of a Sastha temple, will cause

calamity to the occupants, but if built on the opposite side will bring prosperity. Houses should not be constructed near temples, paddy-fields, hermitages, sea, ocean, hills or cow-sheds. If constructed near temples they should be lower in height than the religious edifice".[1] Most of these rules are still observed by the people in the construction of their houses.

Some of the houses of the upper classes built after the traditional ideas and patterns of architecture may be seen even to-day. Every house is a walled family villa with all the domestic amenities provided within its boundaries. The old houses were also built with a view to meeting the needs of the social order that had once been prevalent in this part of the country but collapsing now under the impact of modern social values and civilising influences. The *nalukettus*—as the old houses are called—were built for accommodating the joint families. They consist of a rectangular structure, sometimes tiled but generally with a thatched roof, comprising a central courtyard, the structure being divided into four main rooms and four corner rooms, and the courtyard being connected to the outside by four corridors arranged in *swastika* form. Wood and laterite were the important building materials used, wood for the making of columns, eves, the gables, the overhanging roof and the balconies and laterite for the basement and foundation of the building. Verandahs and cattle-sheds formed part of every house.

Modern houses vary in size and style from mud huts roofed with the leaves of the coconut palms, cadjan or straw to large and airy stone buildings with tiled roofs. Houses in urban areas have generally roofs of tiles; so also the houses of the rich in the rural areas. Houses are built with burnt brick or sun dried brick or by both and by mud, mortar-pointed mud or mortar. Cement and steel are now profusely used in the construction of buildings. Drawing room, study, dining room, kitchen, lavatory etc., are provided in all houses. For the purposes of ventilation big windows are provided in all rooms.

Furniture and Decorations

The houses of the well-to-do have fairly well furnished rooms. The use of chairs, tables, shelves, settees, teapoys, sofa etc., is common. These items of furniture are made either of wood or of rattan. The doors and windows of houses are

1 *Arts and Crafts of Travancore*, Cousins and Poduval, p. 41.

provided with curtains. Radio sets and flower pots wherein either fresh flowers or artificial flowers made of paper or plastic are kept as decorations in every drawing room. The clock, the photos and the calendars all adorn the walls. Wooden cots are found in some houses, but people also sleep on grass mats spread on floors. When dusk falls bronze lamps are lit. The lighting of the lamps is a delightful ceremony with children squatting around the lamps chanting devotional songs. Some of the bronze lamps are ornamental and oil is generally used as an illuminant. Kerosene lamps are lit only after the ceremonial lighting of the bronze lamps is done. But now electric lights have to a great degree replaced the kerosene lamps.

Dress

A distinguishing feature of the people of Kerala is their cleanliness. Believing as they do in the dictum that cleanliness is next to godliness, they are very punctilious about taking daily bath and wearing clean clothes. A visitor from outside is always struck by the simplicity and elegance of their dress. Coloured clothes were hardly in vogue till the days of European contacts. Even today white clothes are preferred by the vast majority of people. It is a common sight to see people both in the urban and rural areas going about their work clad in immaculate white. Among the Nair ladies who follow the traditional style of dressing, the white *pudava* and *roulca* are still in vogue. The conventional dress used by Christian women is the white *mundu* or cloth worn in a distinctive style with a fan-like portion on the back side and long sleeved blouse. The Muslim women, however, have a liking for gaudy dress.

Some of the common features of the dress of the people irrespective of caste or community may be mentioned. The men generally wear a white shirt or bush-shirt and a white *dhoti* or *mundu* which is tucked up at the waist to allow aeration and free movements of the legs. The young women of today have given up the conventional costumes in favour of white or coloured sarees and jumbers, blouses, brassieres, cholis etc. But Muslim women can still be seen wearing their traditional jumbers closed at the necks with long sleeves, and covering their heads with black or white scarves. New forms of dress such as blouses with low-cut necks, close-fitting

sleeves up to the elbow, and revealing a portion of the abdominal region extending from two to three inches are also coming into vogue among women of the higher strata. Women also wear a kind of choli blouse open at the back and joined by only two bits of string out of the same material. The wardrobe of well-to-do young men and urbanites consists of all the items of the western dress ensemble including the bush-coat, bush-shirt, slack made of the fibre of terylene, bucklin, etc. and a pair of trousers. The shirt is usually tucked underneath the trousers and its sleeves rolled up in a band above the elbow.

Almost all women have got black luxuriant hair nurtured by generous doses of coconut oil and often decorated with fragrant flowers. The Malayali women knew from time immemorial many ways of doing their hair. The prettiest of them all was that of keeping it on one side of the head in a full blown lotus style. About the old model of coiffure among both sexes Nagam Aiya wrote in the *Census Report* for 1875 "The men keep a small tuft of hair hanging in front which they tie in a knot and throw behind while the women have long black hair growing luxuriantly which they keep neat and orderly by constant bathing, rubbing of oil and the use of the comb. They tie it in a large knot suspended on the left side in front."[1] But these old fashions have altogether disappeared. Today men have dispensed with the tuft while women generally comb their hair backwards and tie it in a knot. Plaited tails and pony tails are two distinct styles of hair dressing prevalent among young women. Artificial hair, hair nets and rings are used for putting up the hair in different ways. The pony tail and the pig tail are the styles eagerly sought after by girls.

Blackening of the eyes and eye-brows with antimony or the old counterpart of the modern collyrium is still prevalent. Though cutex and face powder are used by fashionable ladies, lipstick is seldom in use. But these artificial aids to beauty do not always find favour with the rural women-folk. The Muslim women use *surma* to enhance their beauty.

Modern ideas regarding dress have not come into vogue among the Hill Tribes. Most of them wear a loin cloth coming down as far as the knees. Irrespective of sex they prefer to

1 *Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, V. Nagam Aiya, p. 350.

leave the upper part of their body exposed. The Kanikkarathi knots a cloth over her shoulder. Both sexes among the Kanikkar grow long hair and knot it at the back of the head. In early times the Mala Vedans invariably used to wear *Maraviri* (bark of trees) to cover nudity. It may be noted that this practice has not altogether disappeared.

Ornaments

Ornaments are being used by all classes of women in this District from very early days. It may now seem paradoxical that in early times it was not so much the love of adornment and decoration as the spell of magic and ritualism that prompted the people to take to jewellery. Different types of ornaments were worn round the neck on the ear and wrist and round the waist and ankles. Metals such as gold, silver, copper and even iron were used for making the ornaments. Rings made of copper were supposed to purify the wearer and copper bangles were used by the Namboothiris. Iron rings were fastened round the ankles of new born babies or used by women during their monthly periods. Men also joined women at times in wearing iron rings in the belief that it would guard them against evil spirits. Pearl necklaces were common. Seeds such as those of *elanji*, nuts, stalks of certain trees, the claws of tigers, ivory, etc., were used as amulets and ornaments as they were supposed to act as charms. Even today one can see people irrespective of sex wearing on their arms *rakshakavacham* (amulet)—a black string with a silver covering in the middle. The *Palakkai mothiram*—the ring made of the seed of the Pala tree—was worn for securing the blessings of Goddess Bhagavathi and rings made with the claws of tiger were used as panacea for dreams and nightmares.

The oldest ornament of women was a necklace called *nagapatam*, the pendants of which resembled a cobra's head. An ornament, called *kettuminnu* was worn by girls on the neck soon after *talikettu*. *Addiyal* to which a *Pathakkam* is attached was an inseparable ornament for women and *takka*, *pampadam* or *toda* for the ears. After the fashion of women in Tamil Nad they also wore a nose ornament called *Mukkuthi* from which was suspended a gold wire called *gnattu*. Round the waist was worn the *kachapuram*, a chain or belt of gold or silver. The main anklets were *kolusu* and *padasaram* after the Tamil fashion. Gradually the *toda* came to be replaced by *kammal*, a smaller ear-ornament prevalent even today.

As in any other branch of human life so in the realm of modern fashions in respect of costumes and jewellery, the proverb "History repeats itself" holds good. Many of the ornaments spurned sometime ago as out-of-date and crude have recently been coming into vogue once again. Chains shaped and designed like miniature mangoes (*mangamala*) and jasmine buds (*pichipu mala*) and small gold coins overlapping one another (*kasumala*) look as nice on the necks of modern girls as they used to be on those of their grandmothers and great grandmothers in their youth. Nevertheless the fashionable female world of today prefers to go about in public with less load of jewellery, i e., elegantly but not extravagantly.

In fact the days when people used to load their ear-lobes with jewellery beyond the limits of elegance are now gone. Women now limit their jewellery to the absolute minimum. The modern ear ornaments consist of ear rings, dolaks, studs etc. Studs are made of various shapes such as of the Asoka Chakra and Swan, the latter being more popular among modern girls. *Kammals* are still in vogue. The '*Tali*', the counterpart of *Thirumangalyam* or *Mangalyasutra*, is worn by women right from the time of their marriage. Bracelets and bangles made of gold and glass are worn on the wrists. A simple gold chain is preferred for the neck. Certain young men also take a fancy for wearing a gold chain on the neck and rings on fingers. Among certain tribes of the District both sexes use rings, ear-rings and bangles.

The National Emergency declared in the wake of the Sino-Indian War (1962) has brought about a revolution in the sphere of ornaments. The slogan "Ornaments for Armaments", has had its impact on women and lessened the craze for gold ornaments. The Gold Control Rules promulgated in January 1963 and the stipulation that the gold content of ornaments should not exceed 14 carats have deprived the yellow metal of much of its fascination as a source of investment.

Food

The pattern of food habits of the people throughout the District is more or less the same, though there are minor variations in detail among the various communities. Rice boiled and served hot is the staple food of people of all castes and creeds. The rice consumed is of the coarse type mostly hand-pounded, and it is usually eaten with vegetable, fish or mutton curry. The Brahmins, the Namboothiris and certain

sections among other Hindu Castes are by tradition and as a matter of principle strict vegetarians. But the Christians, the Muslims and considerable sections of Hindus do eat fish and meat. Though beef is not used by the Hindus, the Christians and Muslims relish it. Some of the Hindus who are not regular non-vegetarians do not take animal food every day but they do so occasionally.

In general, both in the urban and rural areas, in addition to the morning breakfast and afternoon tiffin the people take two regular meals a day, one at mid-day (lunch) and the other at night (supper). The traditional Malayali breakfast was the *conjee* (rice boiled in water and served in liquid form) and it was served to all the members of the household along with ghee and hot condiments. But this kind of breakfast has now almost become a thing of the past. The modern breakfast consists of dishes like *dosa, iddli, poori,* etc., and beverages like coffee or tea. The more well-to-do would take such costly beverages as cocoa, oats, horlicks, bournvita etc. There are still certain poor families who satisfy themselves with *pazham conjee* (rice gruel prepared during the previous day), but they too manage to take a cup of tea or coffee in the morning either in their homes or in the nearby teashops. Dishes made of rice are preferred by the people, but those prepared from wheat are fast becoming popular. The meal at mid-day is an elaborate affair and it consists of boiled rice and curries with pickles and butter milk. The supper after sunset is either *conjee* or a full meal with some of the items as are used for the mid-day lunch. To those who cannot afford to have rice for all the meals, tapioca has come as a welcome substitute. Fish, tapioca and prawns have largely supplanted rice and vegetable curries among the poorer sections of the population. Coconut oil and condiments are used in all culinary preparations. The coconut is an indispensable ingredient in almost all curries.

The traditional Malayali sits cross-legged on the floor and eats his food from the plate with his right hand. On ceremonial occasions like feasts the plantain leaf is used instead of the plate. Till recently tables were not generally used for keeping dishes or cups. Nor were forks and spoons. However, of late dining tables have become popular. But the fork and the spoon have yet to come into vogue.

The food habits of the Hill Tribes are different from those of the people in general. Most of them are non-vegetarians who eat bison meat but not beef. They are generally fond of

fish. Some of the Hill Tribes who are nomadic in their habits eat whatever is available. The Mala Ulladans eat rats and crocodiles, the former being an important item of their food and the latter a delicacy. The Mala Pandarams eat herbs, roots and yams found in the forests. The Mannans consume alcohol, but avoid cow's milk.

Amusements and Festivities

Several amusements and festivities which are common to the people in all parts of Kerala are prevalent in this District as well. The most important of these are *Kathakali, Koothu, Ottamthullal, Patakom,* and *Harikatha.* These are held mainly in temples in connection with festivals (*utsavams*) and may therefore be included in the category of temple arts. *Kathakali* is believed to have had its origin in the Quilon District itself in the 16th or 17th century under the patronage of a member of the Kottarakara royal family.[1] It is a unique dumb drama of Kerala which represents a harmonious blending of *Nritham* (dance), *Natyam* (acting) and *Geetham* (music). Puranic stories are presented through the medium of these three fine arts. Songs are sung to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals by singers in the background and the actors interpret the events and situations described in the songs with the help of dance and signs (*mudras*). The actors on the *Kathakali* stage themselves do not speak. The dress and scenic equipment in *Kathakali* have also peculiarities of their own. The faces of the actors are painted in different colours and the heads are crowned. Green is the colour used for noble or virtuous characters like a Deva or God, red for fierce and excitable characters like Rakshasas or Asuras, black for primitive and uncivilised characters like hunters or evil characters like Kali and white for sages and other holy characters. The costumes of the actors look fantastic and the ornaments picturesque. The show runs throughout the night and as a general rule only males participate in it. In recent times the art of *Kathakali* is being reformed with a view to meeting the needs of a changing society. The use of modern make-up materials, change in stage direction, freedom for women to act on the stage as female characters, abridgement of the plays for shorter periods of three or four hours, and adoption of non-Hindu themes like Maria Magdala are some of the recent innovations introduced in *Kathakali.* With the introduction

1. See Chapter II for details.

of these changes this ancient art of Kerala which was once patronised only by the Namboothiris and the Rajas is likely to become attractive and enjoyable to the common people of all classes and communities. *Koothu* is a monoact in which a single actor, viz., the Chakiar acts the part of all the characters impressing the audience with suitable gestures. The discourse is interspersed with humorous skits and sarcastic hits on society in general and high personages in particular. The person who is the target of attack has no right to retort. If he does so, the performance comes to an abrupt end. *Koothu* is generally performed in *Koothambalams* specially erected in temples for the purpose. *Ottamthullal* is a kind of solo dance invested by Kunjan Nambiar who lived in the 18th century. In it the actor dresses in conventional fashions and recites stories composed in Malayalam in *Thullal* metres to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals. *Patakom* is a performance in which a single actor or reciter expounds puranic stories. *Harikatha,* like *Patakom*, is also a narration of puranic stories but it has more of music in it which makes the story telling more interesting and absorbing to the audience. The traditional *Harikatha* devoted mainly to the presentation of puranic themes is now giving place to the *Kathaprasangam* in which current social themes are also presented.

In addition to the traditional pastimes described above there are also certain others which are peculiar to women and girls. The most important of these is the *Kaikottikali* or *Thiruvathirakali* which is performed by maidens in chorus accompanied by rhythmic movements and delightful *talas.* The dancers swing around and around in a circle or ring singing songs and keeping tune by clapping their hands and tapping the floor with their feet. *Kolattam* is a favourite pastime of girls. In this instead of clapping hands a pair of sticks each a foot long with discs at the top are struck against each other and a pleasant jingling sound is produced. *Oonjal* swinging is also a kind of amusement practised by girls. A girl sits on a horizontal stick or log both ends of which are tightly tied to the branch of a tree with a strong coir rope, and then she swings backwards and upwards. *Vattukali* is another game played by girls on lines drawn on the ground.

Some of the peculiar amusements and pastimes prevalent among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the District may also be mentioned here. A dance called *Kuravarukali* is prevalent among the Kuravas in the Kunnathur Taluk. *Mudiattam* is

a kind of dance prevalent among the Hill Tribes in the Pathanapuram Taluk. *The Velan Thullal* and *Velan pravati* are popular dances performed by the Kochu Velans to please their Gods. Among the Ulladans there is communal singing preceding every marriage. The bride and her people constitute one team, while the bridegroom, his parents and friends the other. The pageantry is interesting with groups of people singing and dancing all around.

Moreover, there are certain amusements and festivities which are peculiar to this District and are held in connection with *Utsavams* in the temples. The mock sword fight (*Oachirakkali*) which takes place at Oachira in connection with the temple festival in the month of Mithunam (June-July) every year is one of the most important of such festivals. In the Kottankulangara temple in Chavara village there is a peculiar custom of men dressing themselves as women and carrying lamps (*Thalapoli*) during the festival in the month of Meenam (March-April). A typical festivity associated with the Krishna temples of the District is the *Uriadi*. It is generally held in connection with the *Ashtami Rohini* celebrations, as it commemorates one of the sports of Krishna. The annual *Uriadi* festival held at the Vadayattukotta temple in connection with the *Ashtami Rohini* deserves mention in this connection. An earthern pot containing milk, coins etc., is hung down from a bamboo or pole with a rope the end of which is held by a person who controls its movements. This is popularly called *Uri.* Those who participate in the game try to hit at the pot with a long stick as the pot is being moved up and down by the person who holds the rope. The spectators from both sides throw water at the participants in the game in order to embarrass them, and make them miss the target. The lucky person who hits the pot becomes the owner of its contents.

The most impressive festivity associated with temple *Utsavams* in this part of Kerala is the *Kettukazhcha* or *Kutirakettu.* The most important of such festivals are held on the day of Bharani asterism in the month of Kumbhom (February-March) in the Bhagavathi temples at Chettikulangara and Mavelikara in the neighbouring Alleppey District, but they are held on an extensive scale also in the temples of Quilon The *Kettukazhcha* festival held at the Mahadevar temple at Trikkadavur in Kumbhom (February-March) every year is one of the colourful festivals of the District. There are similar

festivals in the temples of Sasthamcottah, Velunallur, Chattannur, Kolluvila, Chiraikkara, Uzhaikode etc. A feature of the Kettukazhcha festival is that people from different *karas* adjoining the temple bring huge *rathams* or cars varying from 25 to 150 feet in height. The smaller ones among these *rathams* are called *teru* and the bigger ones *kutira*. These are usually made of bamboos or coconut wood and decorated with white cloth and coloured silks. The *teru* has several storeys which give it the appearance of a huge temple. The images or pictures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses are kept inside it. The smaller cars are carried by the people on their shoulders while the bigger ones are drawn by people on four wheels. All the people of the locality co-operate in making the cars and in taking them in procession to the main shrine. The different *terus* coming from different *karas* assemble on the four sides of the temple compound and are then taken round the temple in *pradakshinam*. The *kettukazhcha* festival described above is supposed to bear traces of Buddhist influences. It is alleged that there is a very close resemblance between it and the Buddhist festival which Fahien, the Chinese traveller of the 5th century A.D., witnessed in the city of *Pataliputra*.[1]

1. T. A. Gopinatha Rao finds in the *Kettukazhcha* festival "a relic of the Buddha festivals in which were actually employed a number of cars", and he cites particularly the car festival witnessed by the Chinese pilgrim Fahien at Patna (T.A.S. Vol. II, p. 124). Dr. P. C. Alexander in his *Buddhism in Kerala* has also expressed the view that the *Kettukazhcha* festival has all the features of the Buddhist festival at Pataliputra described by Fahien. He quotes the following description of the festival by Fahien from the *Travels of Fahien* translated by H. A. Giles. "Of all the countries of Central India this has the largest cities and towns. Its people are rich and thriving and emulate one another in practising charity of heart and duty to one's neighbour. Regularly every year on the eighth day of the second moon they have a procession of images. They make a four-wheeled car of five stories by lashing together bamoos, and these stories are supported by posts in the form of crescentcladed halberds. The car is over twenty feet in height, and in form like a pagoda, and it is draped with a kind of white cashmere, which is painted in various colours. They make images of Devas ornamented with gold, silver and brass and with silk banners and canopies overhead. At four sides they make niches each with a Buddha sitting inside and a Bodhisatva in attendance. There may be some twenty cars, all beautifully ornamented and different from one another. On the above mentioned day all the ecclesiastics and laymen in the District assemble; they have singing and high class music and make offerings of flowers and incense". *Buddhism in Kerela,* Dr. P. C. Alexander, pp. 106-67.

Public Games and Recreation Clubs

Among the traditional games of the District may be mentioned *Kayyamkali* or *Onathallu* and *Talappandu*. The former is a kind of boxing where blows are given not with closed fists, but with open arms. The latter is the Kerala counterpart of the English football. It is played with the help of both the hands and the feet. In modern times western out-door games like foot-ball, volley-ball, badminton, basket ball etc., have replaced the traditional games. Among the modern in-door games indulged in by people for recreation may be mentioned cards play, chess, ping-pong, billiards, carroms etc. By far the most common amusement of the large masses of people is however the cinema. Newspaper reading is also a popular leisure time occupation or pastime with masses of people in the District.

There are a large number of Recreation Clubs and Sports Associations in the Quilon District. A detailed list of the most important of such clubs and associations is given below.

1. The Quilon Athletic Association, Quilon.
2. The Railway Institute Sports Club, Quilon.
3. The Rangers Sports Club Punalur.
4. Al-Ind Sports Club, Kundara.
5. The Youngmen's Club, Thevally, Quilon.
6. S.V. Gymnasium, Kilikollur, Quilon.
7. Rama Varma Union Club, Quilon.
8. Ashtamudi Boat Club, Quilon.
9. The Quilon Club, Quilon.
10. The Police Club, Quilon.
11. Quilon District Volley Ball Association, Quilon.
12. Quilon Muslim Majlis Club, Quilon.
13. Town Sports Club, Kottarakara.
14. National Gymkhana, Karunagapally.
15. S.A.P.C.B. Gymkhana, Quilon
16. Sri Narayana Gurukulam, Ranni, Perinad.
17. Republican Yogasana Sangam, Konni.
18. Yogasana Kendram, Main Road, Quilon.
19. Alind Recreation Club, Quilon.

The associations and clubs mentioned above are devoted mainly to the promotion of out-door games like foot-ball volley-ball, tennis etc., and indoor games like carroms, billiards, ping-pong, cards play etc. There are also some devoted to the promotion of Yogic culture. The membership of almost all these clubs is open to the public irrespective of caste or creed.

In the rural areas the N.E.S. Blocks have recently organised some recreation clubs for adults as well as children. Some of the industrial concerns of this District also evince interest in providing facilities for recreation and games for their employees. The authorities of the Punalur Paper Mills conduct every year a tournament in foot-ball. Prominent teams from all over the State participate in it and the winning team is awarded the Harvey Trophy. While the major Sports Clubs and Associations are affiliated to all-Kerala bodies working in the respective fields, there are also a large number of them functioning at the Taluk and village levels which provide sports facilities to the interested public, but are not affiliated to any association or federation functioning at the State level.

Brief accounts of three important clubs functioning in Quilon town viz., the Quilon Athletic Club, the Rama Varma Club and the Ashtamudi Boat Club are given below.

Quilon Athletic Club

The most important of the sports clubs in Quilon is the Quilon Athletic Club founded in 1922 under the patronage of K. G. Parameswaran Pillai. It has got its own foot-ball ground where it coaches promising young athletes. The Club conducts every year the All India Foot-ball Tournament for the "Unni Memorial Cup". The other activities of the Club are the conduct of Inter-School Foot-ball Tournament, the District League Sports Festival, Onam Festival, Republic Day Sports etc.

Rama Varma Club

Another important recreation club in Quilon town is the Rama Varma Club founded as early as 1888. It is housed in a magnificent two-storeyed building which was constructed in 1905. It has two tennis courts and one badminton court and has also made provision for indoor games such as billiards, ping-pong and cards. It has also a fairly good library known as the Silver Jubilee Library to which the public has free access.

Ashtamudi Boat Club

The Ashtamudi Boat Club Quilon was started in 1954 in order to satisfy the need for a mixed club at Quilon. It is housed in the Out-house in the campus of the Tourist Bungalow, Quilon. Though started primarily as a Boat Club, its

activities are manifold. It has its own jetty and a fleet of three boats. Tennis, table-tennis and shuttle-cock are some of the sporting activities of the club. Its members are allowed to use the Golf Links on the campus of the Tourist Bungalow. The Club has also an up-to-date library and reading room. Weekly film shows are conducted. Informal dinners accompanied by musical and other entertainments are monthy features. The Club Sports and Boating Regatta are conducted every year in connection with the Annual Dinner and cups are awarded to the prize winners.

Pilgrim Centres

The Quilon District has a number of important centres of pilgrimage for Hindus, Christians as well as Muslims. Sabarimala, perhaps the most important centre of pilgrimage for the Hindus in Kerala, was till recently situated in the Pathanamthitta Taluk of this District. Two to three lakhs of people from all parts of the State and even from the neighbouring Districts of Madras State visit Sabarimala for the *Makaravilakku* in January. The Malayalees who live outside the State in such places as Bombay, Madras, etc. are also in the habit of visiting their home State during the festival season at Sabarimala in order to undertake the pilgrimage. In addition to the Sastha temple at Sabarimala those at Achencoil, Ariankavu and Kulathupuzha are also visited by large numbers of pilgrims. The Oachira temple dedicated to *Parabrahmam* in the Karunagapally Taluk also attracts a large number of pilgrims particularly during the festival called *Oachirakkali* in Mithunam (June-July). The Battarakeswaram temple and *Asramam* at Panmana where Chattampi Swamikal entered *Samadhi* are also visited by large numbers of devotees. The *Uchabali* festival in the Mannadi temple in Kunnathur Taluk which falls in the month of Kumbhom (February-March) attracts large crowds from the surrounding areas. The Bhagavathi temple at Kadakkal is celebrated for the annual festival known as *Thiruvathira* which also falls in the month of Kumbhom (February-March). On this day people from different parts visit the place. The *Ashtami Rohini* festival at the Krishna temple at Vadayattukotta also attracts huge crowds from neighbouring places. The religious convention held in the Manjanikara Church in Omallur in Kumbhom (February-March) in memory of the Patriarch of Antioch and the Maramom convention held near Kozhencherry in the same month are important annual

festivals which draw large numbers of Christian devotees to these places. The Kalamala Mosque at Enathu in Kunnathur Taluk is an important place for Muslims as the *Chandanakudam* festival is held here every year. In addition to the pilgrim centres mentioned above it should be noted that each temple, church, or mosque has its own annual festival which attracts from neighbouring areas huge crowds irrespective of caste or creed or religion .

Economic and Professional Classes in relation to Social Life

The traditional Kerala Society in which the caste status enjoyed by a person together with the extent of the landed property owned by him determined his standing in the social scale is now a thing of the past. With the decline in the prestige value of both caste and land new economic and professional classes have come into prominence. Several important factors contributed to this social change. The spread of English education, the teachings of social reformers, the increasing entry of the members of the lower castes into the public services and the learned professions, the introduction of adult franchise, the steady progress of industrialisation, the increasing pace of urbanisation etc. led to the gradual break-down of the old caste laws. At the same time traditional institutions like the joint family, the *Marumakkathayam* system etc. also declined and many young men of old *Tarawads* migrated to urban areas inside and outside the District where tney came into touch with the progressive forces at work in society. Further the agrarian reforms introduced one after the other since the 19th century took away from land much of its attraction as a source of prestige and economic investment, the land owners having been deprived of most of their power to control the tenants. In the place of the traditional society dominated by persons of high caste and extensive landed property has consequently emerged a new society where economic and professional classes now hold a dominant position. In short, the old values and incentives based on caste, agriculture and land holding have given place to new values and incentives based on industry, commerce and education. This represents one of the most far-reaching social revolutions of our time.

APPENDIX

Distribution of Population according to Religion (1961 Census))
(Quilon District)

Religion	*Urban*		*Rural*		*Total*		
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Buddhists	1	..	1	3	2	3	5
Christians	17,767	17,457	217,772	291,009	235,539	236,466	472 005
Hindus	43,472	40,804	579,072	580,577	622,544	621,381	1,243 925
Jains	8	13	Nil	1	8	14	22
Muslims	12,660	12,051	101,640	98,462	114,300	110,513	224,813
Sikhs	3	..	12	11	15	11	26
Others	..	..	249	183	249	183	432

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Introduction

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the Quilon District. According to the 1951 Census 60.48 per cent of the total population were engaged in agricultural pursuits, the District having the second largest agricultural population among the Districts of Kerala. At the Census of 1961 Quilon has retained its pre-eminent place in the agricultural economy of the State. With 10.32 per cent of its population actually engaged in cultivation, Quilon has now the highest proportion of cultivators to the total population among the Districts of the State.

LAND UTILISATION

Table I gives the classification of the land area in the District[1].

TABLE—I

Classification of land area (1957-59)

(*In Acres*)

Category	1957-58	*Percentage to the total area*	1958-59	*Percentage to the total area*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total geographical area according to				
(a) Professional survey	1,163,155	Nil	1,169,421	Nil
(b) Village papers	1,159,049	100.00	1,159,049	100.00
Forests	523,321	45.15	520,766	44.93
Land put to non-agricultural uses	28,873	2.49	26,797	2.31
Barren & uncultivated land	42,247	3.64	42,247	3.65
Permanent pastures and other grazing land	7,415	0.64	4,162	0.36
Land under Miscellaneous trees	14,378	1.24	13,903	1.20
Cultivable waste	19,041	1.64	19,041	1.64
Other fallow	9,009	0.78	9,820	0.85
Current fallow	6,210	0.54	11,178	0.96
Net area sown	508,555	43.88	511,137	44.10
Total cropped area	587,671	50.70	598,444	51.63
Area sown more than once	79,116	6.82	87,307	7.53

1. Source : Department of Statistics.

Table II shows the Taluk-wise distribution of waste lands according to the findings of the "Cultivable Waste Land Survey" conducted by the Statistics Department in the District in 1959-60.

TABLE—II

Taluk-wise distribution of waste lands

(Area in acres)

	Karunagapally	*Kottarakara*	*Pathanamthitta*	*Kunnathur*	*Pathanapuram*
All waste lands	380 (0.76)*	6,476 (4.75)*	4.743 (3.66)*	4,784 (4.97)*	155,885 (51.14)*
Current fallow	34 (8.94)+	432 (6.67)+	188 (3.96)+	405 (8.47)+	150 (0.09)+
Other fallow	21 (5.52)	672 (10.37)	895 (18.87)	519 (10.85)	233 (.15)
Cultivable waste	249 (65.52)	4,215 (65.10)	2,262 (47.69)	3,198 (66.85)	893 (.57)
Uncultivable waste	76 (20.02)	1,157 (17.06)	1,398 (29.48)	662 (13.83)	154,609 (99.19)

It may be seen that the percentage of area under waste land is maximum in the highland Taluk of Pathanapuram and minimum in the lowland Taluk of Karunagapally. Nearly 62% of the area of the Pathanapuram Taluk is enumerated under waste lands. This is because of the presence of numerous tracts with forest growth in the Taluk. 99% of the waste lands in Pathanapuram Taluk is recorded as uncultivable waste land. The extent of waste land in Karunagapally Taluk is less than 1% of the area of the Taluk. The percentage of cultivable waste lands to the total waste lands was highest in Kunnathur Taluk and lowest in Pathanapuram Taluk. 67% of the total waste land in Kunnathur Taluk is recorded as cultivable waste land while the corresponding percentage in Pathanapuram is only less than 1%. On taking the District as a whole the percentage of cultivable waste land and other fallow land to the total waste is 6.3% and 1.4% respectively. The area under cultivable waste lands was mostly confined to Kunnathur and Kottarakara Taluks. Plots left current fallow are mostly small in size. The percentage of current fallows with area less than one acre accounted for about 88%

* Figures within brackets relate to percentage of waste lands to total area of Taluk

\+ Figures within brackets relate to percentages of each type of waste land to the total area under waste lands.

of the total in the District. The percentage of other fallow lands with area greater than 5 acres is less than 1% in the District. The indifference of the owners is found to be the primary reason for the existence of other fallow lands in almost all the Taluks. In the case of cultivable waste land blocks also, the majority of them like other fallow land blocks belong to the size group less than one acre in extent. The percentage of such blocks to the total number of cultivable waste land blocks in the District is 75% which is the highest in the whole State. Here also the indifference of the owners is the main reason for the non-cultivation of cultivable waste lands. 93% of the uncultivable waste land blocks of the District also come under less than one acre in extent. The existence of uncultivable waste land is due to the unsuitable nature of the land which may be rocky, sandy or marshy.

Agricultural holdings

The average size of a holding in the District as in the case of other Districts of Kerala is generally below one acre. According to a Census taken by the Department of Statistics in 1956 about 86% of the Agricultural holdings in the erstwhile Quilon District were over one acre. The Table given at Appendix I which has been prepared from the land records gives the distribution of agricultural holdings according to size, wet land (paddy field), dry land (gardens) and the total of both wet land and dry land in the erstwhile Quilon District.

IRRIGATION

The District has abundant water resources to expand irrigation facilities. Nevertheless she has been chronically deficit in regard to food grains for a long time. To a large extent the low yield is due to the fact that most of the paddy lands are single crop ones depending entirely on the seasonal incidence of rainfall to meet the irrigation needs. Further as the total yearly rainfall is not uniformly distributed, there is either too little or too much of water according to plant requirements even in periods of monsoons. There are, therefore, areas of great scarcity of water in certain localities. In the circumstances the irrigation works in the District are mainly intended to meet crop failures and increase agricultural production.

The present sources of irrigation in the District are natural streams, channels, channel-fed and rain-fed tanks, natural water reservoirs formed by constructing embankments across the line of drainage or natural streams and storage facilities provided by the major, medium and minor irrigation works. Water is allowed to collect in the natural streams and tanks constructed for the purpose during the rainy seasons and taken to the fields through channels. It is this system of irrigation that is prominent throughout the District. It has been the mainstay of cultivation till a few decades ago. But with efflux of time and the consequent pressure of population on land, the need for artificial irrigation for increased production was keenly felt and Government have recently taken up some irrigation works in the District.

Major irrigation works

Major irrigation works are those costing more than Rs. 10 lakhs. There are at present no major irrigation works in the District. However, the work on a major irrigation project called the Kallada Valley Scheme has already been started. Situated entirely in the District of Quilon, the Kallada Irrigation Scheme is the largest of its kind in Kerala, with a reservoir of 18,500 Mcft. capacity. The whole scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 8.61 crores. An outlay of Rs. 130 lakhs is included in the Third Five Year Plan for its execution. The idea is to construct a dam across the river at Parappar a site down stream of the existing bridge along the Trivandrum-Shencottah Road and just below the confluence of Kulathupuzha, Chendurni and Kalthuruthi streams which are the tributaries of the Kallada River. The water so stored is proposed to be led down through power turbines generating 9,000 KW of power and will be later picked up by a Weir 3 miles upstream of Punalur. From this Weir, two channels will be provided—the right bank channel and the left bank channel. The right bank channel will run parallel to the Kallada River up to Punalur and after crossing the Shaliakara River, it will take a course away from the Kallada River to Adur, where it will divide itself into branches. The right bank channel and its branches will irrigate the lands in Adur, Kodumon, Pallickal, Kunnathur, Sooranad, Poruvazhi, West Kallada and Enadimangalam Villages of Kunnathur Taluk; Panmana, Thevalakara , Mynagapally, Thodiyur, Karunagapally, Kulasekharapuram, Thazhava, Krishnapuram and Perinad of Karunagapally Taluk and some Villages of Mavelikara Taluk.

The left bank channel will run almost parallel to the Quilon-Shencottah Railway line and after nearing Punalur, it will pass along to Kottarakara and Ezhukone. The channel and its branches will be able to irrigate the wet lands in Punalur and Anchal Villages of the Pathanapuram Taluk; Ezhukone, Kottarakara, Kulakkada, Mylom, Melila and Veliyam Villages of Kottarakara Taluk and the Villages of Adichanallur, Eravipuram, Vadakkeyvila, Thrikkovilvattom, Nedumpana, East Kallada, Perinad and Kilikollur in Quilon Taluk.

In all, the Kallada Irrigation Scheme is expected to irrigate 1,09,500 acres of land. The completion of the Scheme will take about 10 years. Preliminary works in the Project have already been started and a special Engineering Division has been set up recently at Kottarakara. Substantial progress is expected to be achieved in the Project before the end of the Third Five Year Plan period. With its completion, cultivation of paddy in the eastern Taluks of Quilon District will be put on surer grounds, instead of depending mainly on seasonal rainfall and minor irrigation sources.

Pamba Irrigation Scheme

Another major irrigation scheme which will benefit a large area in the District is the Pamba Irrigation Scheme. It envisages the use of tail race waters from the Pamba Hydel Project for irrigating the Pamba Valley. About 33,000 acres of land in the Districts of Quilon and Alleppey will be ultimately benefited by the construction of a diversion weir at Manniar across the Kakkad river. The detailed investigation of the Scheme has been completed. An outlay of Rs. 240.00 lakhs is included in the Third Plan for the scheme, which is expected to benefit an area of 11,500 acres during the plan period.

Medium Irrigation

The nomenclature 'medium' irrigation works refers to irrigation and salt water exclusion works which benefit at least an area of 200 acres of land and which cost less than Rs. 10 lakhs. Generally all medium irrigation works comprise (1) small tanks and reservoirs, (2) diversion regulators across small streams, (3) irrigation channels and (4) salinity control works. These works are intended to serve isolated

regions which do not come under the purview of major irrigation works or where there is no possibility of taking up a major irrigation work. A number of medium irrigation schemes have already been taken up during the Five Year Plan periods. They are the following:—

1. Improvements to Perumkulam Yela (Quilon Taluk).
2. West Kallada Scheme (Kunnathur Taluk).
3. Reclamation of Polachira Lake (Quilon Taluk).
4. Ithikara Yela Scheme.

Minor irrigation works

Irrigation works which benefit an area of not more than 200 acres but above 5 acres are classified as minor irrigation works. The economic limit of the cost of minor irrigation works is fixed at Rs. 250 per acre of the area benefited. Minor irrigation works include surface percolation wells, tanks and tube wells. In the Quilon Irrigation Sub Division 250 minor irrigation works had been completed and 100 works were under various stages of execution in March 1963. At the same time in the Adur Irrigation Sub Division 280 works had been completed and 120 were in progress.

Lift irrigation

There are lands in the District which cannot be irrigated by gravity flow. Such lands can be brought under cultivation by lifting water by electric pumps or diesel pumps from the rivers where fresh water is available or from fresh water lakes or ponds. Lift irrigation thus forms an essential part in the pattern of irrigation development in the District. There are a large number of such works proposed for the District in the Master Plan for the development of the water resources of Kerala. Table III gives details of such works.

TABLE—III

Statement of Lift Irrigation Schemes

Name of Scheme	*Cost*		*Area benefited*
	Capital	*Maintenance*	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Kallada River Basin:			
1. Pazhayattu	80,000	12,000	400
2. Koikkabhagom	60,000	9,000	300
3. Thazhattu	40,000	6,000	200
4. Munithuruthu	30,000	4,500	180
Ithikara River Basin:			
5. Adichanallur	80,000	7,500	250

Area under irrigation

In 1958-59 Quilon had 13.71% of the net area irrigated in the State. This represented 23.6% of the net area sown in the District. Table IV shows the sources of water and area (in acres) irrigated[1] in the District during 1957-58 and 1958-59.

TABLE—IV

Sources of water supply and area irrigated

Sources		Area irrigated in acres 1957-58	1958-59
1. Canals:			
	Government &	17,436	17,436
	Private	1,292	1,292
2. Tanks		2,890	2,890
3. Wells		160	160
4. Others		98,693	98,693
	Total	120,471	120,471

Table V shows the area in acres of crops irrigated in the District during 1957-58 and 1958-59.

TABLE—V

Irrigated area under different crops

Sl. No.	*Crop*	*Area irrigated* 1957-58	1958-59
1	Rice	94,236	94,236
2	Pulses	5,385	5,385
3	Other food crops	35,506	35,506
4	Non-food crops	..	..
	Total	135,127	135,127

The percentage of area irrigated under each crop to the total area under the crop is also given in Table VI.

1 One word about the term "Irrigation" is required to avoid confusion among those who may use these figures. Usually it may be presumed that these statistics give the area irrigated from the various types of irrigation projects, viz., major, minor, medium, lift etc. But in addition many acres of land are being irrigated by the cultivators from sources other than these irrigation projects. Irrigation may therefore be interpreted here as supply of water by artificial means for raising crops.

TABLE—VI

Percentage of area irrigated under each crop to the total area under the crop

Crops	Percentage	
	1957-58	1958-59
Paddy	81.2	85.4
Pulses	30.9	32.0
Sugarcane	57.1	57.7
Total food crops	35.1	35.1
All crops	23.0	22.6

Soil conservation

One of the principal reasons for the low productivity in agriculture in certain parts of the District is the progressive deterioration of soil due to erosion. Wind and water are the two active forces causing erosion. Erosion by wind occurs generally in the coastal areas where there is no protective vegetation. Erosion by water assumes a special significance in the District as rainfall is heavy and cultivation rampant in slopes and undulating lands. Denudation of forest areas as a result of ruthless cutting, grazing and brousing also leads to soil erosion. Along with these the undulating topography, intense precipitation and indifferent soil management practices in the dry land areas of the District have also resulted in soil erosion. There is no reliable estimate regarding the extent of the area affected by or vulnerable to soil erosion in the District. The hilly areas of the Pathanamthitta, Pathanapuram and Kunnathur Taluks are, however, the worst affected. Effective steps are therefore taken from time to time to plan and undertake soil conservation measures on a large scale. There is a Soil Conservation Research Station located at Konni (Pathanamthitta Taluk).

A soil conservation section was set up in the District in 1957 in the light of the Travancore-Cochin Land Development Act XXXVI of 1950. It had its centre of operation at Seethathode in Chittar of Pathanamthitta Taluk. Three soil conservation schemes embracing 1921 acres of land belonging to 899 farmers in Seethathode Centre were completed during the period of 1959-60. The farmers were requested to construct contour bunds with outlet channels on their lands. The minimum height of the bunds was to be 3 ft. To do this they were given a loan of Rs. 150 per acre out of which 25% was given as

grant. The loan is repayable in 15 years' time. The departmental staff posted on the workspot gave guidance to farmers in the execution of the works. The total amount spent till March 31, 1962 was Rs. 2,92,317.00.

Soon after the completion of the above works the attention of the staff turned to other severely soil eroded areas. Three more draft schemes to benefit 3,000 acres and 1,700 peasants, in Vayyattupuzha, Gurunadhammannu and Vechuchira Villages in Pathanamthitta Taluk are being taken up. It is also worth mentioning here that preliminary investigation of an extensive area at Kumpazha in Pathanamthitta Taluk is also being undertaken.

Water potential and schemes for further exploitation

The rivers of the District have immense potentialities for expansion. The Master Plan prepared by the Government of Kerala in 1958 for the development of the water resources of the State includes several proposals for the utilisation of the river waters of this District. The Kallada Valley and Pamba Irrigation Schemes which are the most important have already been described. The other important schemes proposed in the various river basins are the following:—(1) *Pamba River Basin*—a Diversion Weir across the river Pamba at Ponachi eight miles from Erumeli costing Rs. 722.50 lakhs (2) *Achencoil River Basin*—a Dam near Konni of height 100′ and length 1,100′ with a storage capacity of 5,000 Mcft. and an estimated cost of Rs. 460 lakhs. (3) *Ithikara River Basin*—a Dam upstream of the Ayur Bridge of height 85′ and length 500′ with a storage capacity of 6,700 Mcft. and an estimated cost of Rs. 291 lakhs.

AGRICULTURE

Soils

Agriculture depends among other things on soil conditions[1]. The soils of the District are of three major types:—Sandy loam, Laterite soil and Hill and Forest soil. The following is the broad classification of soils in the District.

1 See Chapter I Geology for details.

Laterite—Major part of the District.

Sandy—Coastal strip of the District.

Hill and Forest soil—Mountainous part of the District.

On a Taluk-wise analysis, it is seen that laterite soils cover Kottarakara, Kunnathur and parts of Quilon, Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta. The laterite soils are poor in water holding capacity and fertility, but they respond well to good cultivation and judicious application of fertilisers. In Karunagapally and part of Quilon Taluk is seen sandy loam. The Karunagapally Taluk which comes under the tract known as Onattukara, although predominantly sandy, is an important rice growing region in the State. In the mountainous Taluks of Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta, are found also Hill and Forest soils. In the hills, loamy soil with a great admixture of humus is found. The swamp paddy lands of some Taluks in this District contain clay soils of different depths mixed with varying proportions of organic matter at different stages of decay. In the valleys and deltas the soil is alluvial in nature and consists mainly of salt.

The soils in this District are deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus while the coastal tract is deficient in potash also. Lime deficiency is a general defect of the soil in this District.

Area under cultivation and average yield

Quilon has 10% of the total area under food crops in the State. Rice, tapioca, pulses, sesamum, coconut, arecanut, banana, mango, pine apple, tea, rubber and cashew are some of the most important crops grown in the District. The area under millets and cashew has tended to show a diminishing trend in recent years because of the emergence of tapioca as a major crop and its comparative advantage over millets. The area under cashewnuts has also decreased with the increase in the area under rubber. Increasing trends are noticed also in regard to the acreage under pineapple, arecanuts and coconuts. Ground nut recently introduced in the District shows promise of being stabilised into cultivation as a cash crop. Such details as the acreage under each crop and its percentage to the total cropped area in 1957-58 and 1958-59 are given in Table VII.

TABLE—VII

Area under each crop

(1957-59)

Name of crop	*Area in acres*		*Percentage to total cropped area*	
	1957-58	1958-59	1957-58	1958-59
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Rice	116,056	110,327	19.75	18.44
Ragi	1,495	929	0.25	0.15
Other cereals	4	..		
Total cereals and millets	117,555	111,256	20.00	18.59
Tur	501	501	2.97	2.82
Other pulses	16,911	16,345		
Sugar	2,042	1,988	0.35	0.33
Pepper	13,422	13,035	2.28	2.18
Betelnuts (Arecanuts)	8,188	8,519	1.39	1.42
Chillies	90	..	1.44	1.26
Ginger	86	86		
Turmeric	427	178		
Other condiments and spices	7,832	7,285		
Mango	23,089	24,335	3.93	4.07
Bananas	6,434	6,466	1.09	1.08
Other fresh fruits	20,545	20,312	3.50	3.39
Cashew nuts	16,895	16,680	2.87	2.79
Tapioca	140,679	147,994	23.94	24.73
Onion	839	839	1.71	1.22
Sweet potatoes	621	3		
Other vegetables	8,599	6,476		
Sesamum	6,487	13,423	1.10	2.24
Coconut	138,921	140,256	23.64	23.44
Castor	9	6	0.06	0.06
Other oil seeds	348	341		
Tea	8,290	7,472	1.41	1.25
Coffee	575	575	0.10	0.10
Rubber	45,458	49,087	7.73	8.20
Fodder crops	17	11	..	..
Other non-food crops	2,811	5,975	0.49	0.83

Table VIII shows the total out-turn of principal crops in the District during 1957-58 and 1958-59.

TABLE—VIII

Total out-turn of principal crops 1957-58 and 1958-59

Sl. No.	*Name of crop*	1957-58	1958-59
1	Rice	64,800 Tons	68,886 Tons
2	Ragi	599 „	378 „
3	Other cereale millets	1 „	..
4	Pulses	2,736 „	2,591 „
5	Sugar cane	3,323 „	3,323 „
6	Pepper	2,410 „	2,291 „
7	Ginger dry	44 „	51 „
8	Turmeric dry	153 „	64 „
9	Arecanut	512 Million nuts	533 Million nuts
10	Banana	6,375 Tons	8,040 Tons
11	Other plantations	12,058 „	10,203 „
12	Cashew nuts	10,560 „	10,426 „
13	Sesamum	851 „	1,614 „
14	Coconut	424 Million nuts	393 Million nuts
15	Tea	2,079 Tons	2,207 Tons
16	Coffee	2 „	2 „
17	Rubber	5,066 „	5,059 „
18	Lemongrass oil	3,258 bottles of 22 oz. each	2,960 bottles of 22 oz. each
19	Tapioca	395,700 Tons	416,233 Tons

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF DIFFERENT CROPS

Paddy (Nellu) (Oryza Sativa Linn)

Paddy is the most important crop cultivated in the District. In 1958-59 the area under paddy was 18% of the total cropped area of the District and it represented 5.8% of the total area under paddy in the State. The number of crops taken in a year varies from place to place in each Taluk. On the whole three crops are taken during the year viz. *Viruppu, Mundakan,* and *Punja.* But most of the lands in this District are either double or single crop lands. The first crop is the *Viruppu,* and is purely rainfed. Seeds are generally sown broadcast in April-May after the first showers of rain, and the harvest is in August-September. In the low-lying *Viruppu* fields transplantation takes place in June-July. *Mundakan* is the second crop grown from September-October

to January. This is generally transplanted and requires irrigation, being only partly rainfed. The third crop, *Punja* is cultivated from January to May and depends entirely on irrigation facilities. This is sown broadcast or transplanted. There are lands in which all the above three crops are raised successively in a year. A good proportion of lands is under *Viruppu* and *Mundakan*, but the major portion of wet lands is devoted to single crop *Mundakan*. The position in 1958-59 was as follows.*

	Season		*Area in acres* (Lakhs)
1.	Viruppu		0.44
2.	Mundakan		0.57
3.	Punja		0.01
		Total	1.02

Viruppu

The first crop *'Viruppu'* is sown under dry condition and subsequently treated as wet crop with the outbreak of the monsoon. With the pre-monsoon showers the land is prepared by ploughing and paddy seeds dibbled behind the plough or sown broadcast and covered by ploughing and planking. In the sandy soil regions of Karunagapally and Quilon Taluks and parts of Kunnathur the sowing is done directly in the field in lines behind the plough. In the lateritic regions of Kunnathur, Kottarakara, Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta Taluks where the soil is more clayey in texture and less porous the seed is sown broadcast either sprouted or unsprouted with water standing in the fields. Under these conditions weeding is laborious and costly as it has to be done by hand. The most popular local variety used for the *Viruppu* season is the *Kochuvithu*. Powdered farm yard manure and wood ash are sometimes mixed with the seed and sown depending upon the moisture status of the soil. In other cases, farm yard manure and ash are applied as a basal dressing and ploughed under during the last ploughing. Application of Ammonium Sulphate, Superphosphate and Muriate of Potash as a basal dressing is also becoming increasingly popular. But the use of fertilisers as a basal dressing is limited by the lack of assured water supply. The cultivators use a high seed rate up to 80-100 lbs. per acre for this crop probably as an insurance against the vagaries of the

* Source: Department of Agriculture.

pre-monsoon showers which determine satisfactory germination. The short-duration varieties of paddy mainly "*Kochuvithu*" which are grown during this season are not profuse-tillering varieties and this factor would also account for the high seed rate. Two or three inter-cultivations are done by means of small narrow-bladed spades and the sowing in lines greatly facilitates this operation. Ash is applied and lightly mixed with the soil during the inter-cultivation operations. Top dressing with Ammonium Sulphate or urea is also resorted to. The crop is harvested in August-September. The most popular local variety grown during the *Viruppu* season is "*Kochuvithu*". Improved varieties like PTB. 10, PTB 23, PTB. 28 and PTB. 31 are being introduced in these areas. The *Viruppu* crop is harvested during August-September months.

Mundakan

The second crop '*Mundakan*' is transplanted during August-September months. During the '*Mundakan*' season medium and long duration varieties of paddy are grown. Sowing in the nursery is done during June and July and thirty to thirty five days old seedlings are transplanted in the main field. The main field is puddled by means of successive ploughings using bullocks or by hand digging with *mammatties* and recently by tractor power. Green leaves, farm yard manure and compost are ploughed under the soil. Liming is also practised in areas where the soils are acidic in reaction. Ammonium Sulphate, bone-meal or superphosphate and muriate of potash are also applied as basal dressing. The fertiliser recommendations are 30 N: 30 P_2O_5: 30 K_2O. Transplanting in lines greatly facilities inter-culture by means of Japanese hoes. Where transplanting is not done in lines weeding is done by hand. Top dressing with ammonium sulphate or urea is given to the crop. The crop comes into ear by November-January. The local varieties are *Athikarazhi* and *Mundakan Kuruvia*. Improved varieties like U.R. 19 have almost supplanted the local varieties. Other improved varieties like PTB 4, PTB 20 and PTB 27 are being introduced. In single crop paddy lands bordering the backwaters in Karunagapally Taluk a long duration variety of paddy known by various names "*Oru Mundakan* and '*Mundakan*', is grown. Sowing in the nursery is done during April and 80 days old seedlings are transplanted in August. The soils are peaty and no manuring is practised. Harvesting is done in January.

The cost of cultivation of paddy ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 per acre depending upon the season and application of fertilisers.

In addition to the above, there are some special modes of cultivation prevalent in certain parts of the District.

Onattukara Tract

It has already been stated that Karunagapally Taluk and parts of Quilon Taluk fall within the tract known as Onattukara. The method and natural condition of cultivation in Onattukara differ from other parts of the District. This region has good loamy well-drained soil and unfailing rainfall which is well distributed and generally dependable. The holdings are very small. Ash is the manure in common use though conditions are fast changing. Both dibbling and transplantation methods are followed. During the monsoon period the plant and the field are heavily manured. Two crops of paddy and a catch crop of gingelly is the rule. The gingelly crop serves the purpose of rotation. The average yield is certainly higher than in other modes of paddy cultivation in the District.

Malankrishi

Paddy is also cultivated in the forests at the foot of the Ghats and on the slopes of hills. This is called *Malankrishi,* or Hill Paddy Cultivation. Hill paddy is cultivated mainly in high levels in the Taluks of Pathanamthitta and Pathanapuram. It is a rotational crop. The yield and the cost of cultivation are very low when compared with those of other crops. Hill paddy is also raised in young teak plantations when the same are let out by the Forest Department.

Varieties of paddy

The District grows a number of varieties of paddy which are known by different local names among the agriculturists. However, the Agricultural Department has evolved a few improved varieties and is trying to popularise them. The more popular local as well as improved varieties grown in the District are given in Tables IX and X.

TABLE—IX

Local varieties of paddy

Season	Variety	Duration
1. *Viruppu*	1. Kochuvithu	100 days
	2. Kuthalam	120 ,,
	3. Karutha Chutti Aryan	125 ,,
	4. Arupatham Vella	90 ,,
2. *Mundakan*	1. Athikarachi	135 ,,
	2. Mundakan	160 ,,
	3. Cheradi	160 ,,

TABLE—X

Improved varieties of paddy

Season	Variety	Duration	Average acre yield	Percentage increase over ryot's crop
		Days	Lbs.	
1. *Viruppu*	PTB. 10 (Thekkan Cheera)	100	2,500	15.0
	PTB. 23 (Cheriva Aryan)	110	2,000	48.1
	PTB. 31 (Eleppapu Chamba)	110	2,500	16.3
2. *Mundakan*				
	UR. 19 (Chembavu)	145	3,000	30.9
	PTB. 4 (Vellari)	140	3,000	13.0
	PTB 27 (Kodiyan)	130	3,500	11.9
	PTB. 15 (Kavungampoothala (Late)	165	3,000	15.0

The average yield of paddy in the District is about 1,700 lbs. per acre. Yields as high as 7,200 lbs. per acre have been obtained by cultivators in crop competitions. By using improved varieties of paddy and adopting scientific methods of cultivation the average yield can be stepped up to 3,000 lbs. per acre.

Tapioca (Manihot utilissma Pohl)

Tapioca occupies a place which is only next in importance to rice as a staple food of the people of the District. In 1958-59 Quilon District had 27% of the total area under tapioca in the State, the percentage of this area to the total cropped area in

the District being 2.5%. In fact, Quilon has the largest area under tapioca among the Districts of Kerala. Tapioca is today mainly the food of the poor. An acre of land under the crop gives 2½ times more calories and energy food than rice or wheat. The density of population and the smallness of the area available per head make the large scale cultivation of tapioca in Kerala an economic necessity. Tapioca is said to have been introduced by the Portuguese in the Malabar area during the 17th century. The Maharaja of Travancore, Visakham Thirunal, (1880-1885) later did considerable development work for spreading the cultivation of this valuable food crop in Travancore. Today many varieties of tapioca, ranging in duration from six to twelve months, are cultivated on all types of land in Kerala from the coast line up to an elevation of 3,000 ft. After the land is cleared, cuttings are planted, generally during the two monsoon seasons and sometimes also in December, but in the latter case the plants require watering till they put forth two or three leaves. A dry situation is preferable as otherwise the roots may decay and perish. So instead of planting the cuttings in trenches, the ryots sometimes turn the soil and plant them as heaps of earth with trenches around for water to gather and flow away. The crop matures in nine to eleven months. Large quantities of starch are present in the tubers. The tubers are used for food in various ways. They are boiled and used directly as food. The tubers are also scraped, washed and then converted into pulp by mechanical contrivances. Tapioca flour is now exported even to foreign countries. Cut into small bits and dried in the sun it can be kept for a long time without deterioration.

Pulses

The Quilon District stands third in the matter of area and production of pulses among the Districts of the State. Pulses are now increasingly raised as second or even third crop by availing of the moisture left in the soil after the harvest of paddy. The cultivation of pulses is done with a view to increasing crop intensity and to enrich soils by including a legume in the rotation. Of the pulses, only black gram, green gram, horse gram and cowpea are described here, as they alone are largely cultivated in the District.

Black gram (*Phaseolus mungo*) and green gram (*Phaseolus aurcus*) grow luxuriantly in soils containing lime. Two

crops of the black gram and green gram are raised during the monsoon period. The South-west monsoon cultivation takes a longer time than the other. It is sown in *Meenam* (March-April) and harvested in *Mithunam* (May-June). The north-east monsoon crop is sown in *Thulam* (October-November) and harvested in *Dhanu* (December-January).

The mode of cultivation is the same for both kinds of grams. The ground is first ploughed, made even and then divided into small plots. The soil is ploughed again and hand-hoed. Ash is the usual manure and it is applied before sowing. The seed is then sown, five or six *edangazhis* on an average, for one acre of land. The ground is ploughed again a third time. In the selection of seeds care is taken that they keep their proper colour, that their sprouting portions stand prominent, and that they are not damaged. Grains smaller in size than the average ones are considered bad seeds. Black gram and green gram generally grow to a height of one and a half to two feet. The plants of these pulses are plucked root and branch when the pods have all become ripe. They are then dried and beaten and the seeds separated. The cost of cultivation is very much the same for all classes of grams.

The cultivation of horse gram (*Dolichos biflorus*) is limited to the laterite soils of the midlands. Even in these areas no largescale or systematic cultivation is practised. It is more often grown in fully dry lands with undulating terrain as a mixed crop with tapioca in alternating rows. The sowing is done broadcast in longitudinal strips. Except for initial preparation of the land by digging or ploughing no other inter-cultivation operations are usually done. Manuring is also seldom practised. Moreover, application of a phosphatic fertiliser as basal dressing has yielded very good results. The cropping season is from November-December to February-March. Harvesting is done by pulling out the plants, drying in the sun and beating lightly with sticks which separates the seed from the pods and straw. The yield is only 200-300 lbs. per acre. No improved varieties have been evolved or introduced in the District.

Cowpea (*Vigna catjang*, Walp) is another important pulse crop grown all over the District. The field is prepared by digging or ploughing and the seed is grown broadcast. In some areas the sowing is done in small raised beds. A basal

dressing of wood ash is usually applied. Sowing is done in June. Very little after care is given to the crop. Harvesting is done by hand picking in stages as the pods became mature. Flowering occurs in three or four flushes. The main cropping season is from June to August.

Oil Seeds

Among the oil seeds the most important are coconut and sesamum.

Coconut (Cocos nucifera L)

Of the oil seeds coconut is the most important and it is cultivated extensively in this District. In 1958-59 Quilon had 12% of the total area under coconut in the State, the percentage of this area to the total cropped area in the District being 23. All the Taluks cultivate it to a greater or lesser extent. It is cultivated in Karunagapally and Quilon on a large scale and in Kunnathur on a smaller scale. Several varieties of the tree are met with. The leading commercial variety known as 'West coast tall', exhibits different sizes, shapes and colour of nuts and petioles. A medium hill variety known as 'Jappanan' is also met with, but it is not grown for commercial production of nuts. It is probably an exotic variety introduced from Ceylon. A dwarf yellow variety known as 'Gowlipatram' with yellowish coloured petioles and nuts is grown as an ornamental variety.

The coconut is an inter-tropical tree which is extensively grown in sandy tracts along the coast, on the banks of rivers, lakes, tanks, and canals and in low lying valleys. With a little care it will grow on the hill tops, in deep ravines, in the precipitous slopes and in the interstices between rocks. It is ubiquitous. It may be safely said that there is not a single ryot who does not own at least one coconut tree in his name. It bears all the year round and its uses are infinite. The trunk of the mature tree is used in the construction of houses, the leaves are plaited for purposes of thatching them, inflorescences are tapped for toddy, and the stem and shell are used for fuel. It is, however, the nut that forms its most important part. Coconut oil, copra, coir yarn and rope are some of the important products of the nut. The oil is used both for edible and industrial purposes. It is an important ingredient in the manufacture of soap. The shell of the coconut serves as

a medium for the expression of some of the finest forms of craftsmanship of the East.

In the sandy tracts of the District where coconut cultivation is easy and inexpensive the tree is planted in every available acre while in the laterite regions where the cultivation is comparatively expensive and difficult, it is usually planted in the vicinty of backwaters and estuaries and on the lower slopes of the hills that surround paddy fields. For propagation fully matured nuts from old trees are selected. They are dried in the sun for some days and then soaked in water for ten to twenty days. They are then buried in rich loamy soil with the tops showing above ground. The nuts begin to sprout in about three months and the seedlings are planted within a year in pits just before the outbreak of the south-west monsoon. Ash is often buried with the seedlings and sometimes a handful of salt also to keep away the attack of pests. The plants are watered everywhere in the hot season for the first three years and the pits are gradually filled up, partly with soil washed in by rain, and partly with green leaves, wood ash and cattle dung. All that is necessary thereafter is to plough up the soil at least once a year and to dig shallow trenches round the trees and fill them up with manure. The trenches are usually dug during the monsoons. The time required for the coconut trees to come into bearing differs with the different varieties of the tree and the nature of the soils in which they are grown. When the trees begin to flower for the first time, a trial is made by cutting a flowering branch to determine whether they will be fit for producing nuts or only palm wine (toddy). If the cut bleeds profusely, then the tree is considered more suitable for tapping. In good soil, the tree yields juice all the year round, but in poor soil it exhausts in six months. The juice is distilled into arrack. On an average the trees come into full bearing about the tenth year. They bear vigorously for about thirty years and then begin to decline. The nuts are plucked six or eight times in the year, but larger number of nuts are plucked during the period from February to July.

Sesamum (Sesamum indicum Linn) (Ellu)

Sesamum is a major oil seed grown in the District. Quilon occupies the second place among the Districts of the State regarding acreage as well as out-turn of the crop. Though the cultivation of sesamum extends to all the six Taluks in

the District the main sowing tract is confined to the sandy soils of Karunagapally and Quilon Taluks and parts of Kunnathur and Kottarakara Taluks. The sandy soils of Karunagapally Taluk are famous as best suited for growing sesamum. The yield per acre, oil extraction percentage and quality of oil obtained are higher in the sandy soils than in other types of soils. Sesamum requires very little moisture for its growth, heavy rainfall even proving ruinous to the crop.

The seed is sown broadcast in wet land paddy fields after the *Mundakam* paddy crop in January-February. Since the seed is very small and light, sprouting and satisfactory growth depends on very thorough preparation of the field which leaves a soft seed bed. A basal dressing of farm yard manure and ash is usually given at the last ploughing before sowing. After the seeds are sown broadcast a light harrowing is given by means of wooden toothed harrows known as "Pallu" so as to cover the seed lightly. Two or three inter-cultivations are given by means of narrow-bladed spades. Thinning of the crop is also done during the inter-cultivation. A thick stand reduces branching and lowers yield. Thinning is done so as to leave a spacing of about 1 foot between healthy plants. Ash is applied during the inter-cultivations and highly mixed with the soil.

The season is from January to April. Light summer showers during the growing season are beneficial to the crop while heavy rains and water stagnation are ruinous. Harvesting is done during early April by pulling out the plants when the majority of capsules have ripened. The harvested plants are stacked in bundles after cutting off the root portion for two or three days so that the leaves dry up and fall off. Then the plants are spread out and dried in the sun when the capsules burst open releasing the seeds. Light beating with sticks is also resorted to for separating the seeds from the capsules. The seeds are dried in the sun for three days and then winnowed. The average yield is about 200-300 lbs. per acre.

Arecanut (Areca Catechu L)

The arecanut or betelnut tree is an important cash crop cultivated in Kerala over which the State has a partial monopoly. Next to Mysore Kerala is the most important

producer of arecanuts in India. In 1958-59 Quilon had 1.42 per cent of its total cropped area under arecanut cultivation. This represented 6.9 per cent of the total area under arecanut in the State. Arecanut is essentially a tropical palm requiring a humid climate for its luxuriant growth. It is very sensitive to drought and therefore frequent irrigation during summer has to be assured for the successful cultivation of this palm. It is grown under varied soil and climatic conditions in areas of heavy rainfall and high altitudes. In alluvial tracts it is grown in coconut plantations as a mixed crop while in the laterite regions extensive plots of *parambas* are exclusively devoted to it. The arecanut palm has a tall erect unbranched stem, very graceful, often reaching a height of about 60′ or even more. As for the process of cultivation, mature fruits are selected as seeds. The seed nuts are selected and procured from Kunnamkulam Tract for these areas. They are sown by 3″ x 3″ in 4′ x 4′ Nursery beds. In between two beds a spacing of one foot is generally given. The Nursery beds after sowing will be covered with either dry leaves or straw, and watering is given on alternate days or daily as the case may be. The nuts start sprouting after two months. The seedlings will be ready for distribution for planting after 6 months of sowing. After they are planted they grow into young plants within a year or so. Then they are transplanted into the gardens where they have to be grown. Planted in parallel lines the distance from one plant to another varies from two to three yards. They are at first placed in pits measuring a cubic yard. Some cow dung and ash manure are put, and watering is given on alternate days in the summer. During the monsoon they are left to themselves. When the plants grow up into trees, the pit is filled up and a shallow basin round it made just to contain a few gallons of water. These are renewed every year in the beginning of summer. Small channels are cut across the gardens to bring water to the root of every tree, waterlifts are erected and regular watering begun. This will continue until the advent of the monsoon.

Fruits

Mangoes, bananas and pine apples are three of the most important of the fresh fruits raised in the District. While the first two are extensively grown in the gardens attached to almost every dwelling house, pine apple is cultivated mainly in the Punalur and Pathanapuram areas.

Mango (Mangifera indica).

Among the Districts of the State Quilon has the largest are a under mangoes. From the point of view of production also it occupies the highest rank. Mango is the fruit *par excellence* of India. The English word is derived through the Portuguese who called it by the Malayalam term "Manga". Owing to its high adaptability to different kinds of soils, the cheapness of its culture, its high yields, and extremely delicious table qualities it has been cultivated extensively in the District from time immemorial. It is an evergreen tree blossoming from January to April according to situation, the fruit ripening from May to July. There are many varieties. Some of them are good for curries and pickles while others are excellent as fruits. Among the local table varieties the Nedumgolam is the best known. The mango tree is best propagated by grafting, though it readily grows from seeds. The wood of the mango tree is used as fuel and for building canoes and sometimes for houses and furniture.

Banana[1]

This fruit called in ancient Sanskrit literature the fruit of the wise men is grown in plenty everywhere in the District. In 1958-59 Quilon had 1.08% of the total cropped area of the District under plantains. Almost every house garden has a few plantains in it. Besides the perennial varieties like *palayankodan, kannan, padatti, poovan, kadali, chingan* etc., which are grown in the compounds attached to houses and farmyards, the *nendran* variety is grown on a large scale in both wet and dry land areas. Almost all kinds of soils in the District are suited for plantain cultivation but an admixture of sand and clay is the best. The ground is at first hedged in to prevent cattle from straying in. It is then ploughed and furrowed. Where the ground is uneven, terraces are formed. Where it is not fit for ploughing, spade work is done. Pits are dug and

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1 Banana, bonana as originally spelt, is the West Indian name for Musa. It is now commonly applied to all table varieties in the Western countries; but on the Malabar coast, the banana is applied to Nendran, the variety commonly known in the Western countries as plantain. The term plantain is popularly attributed by Westerners to varieties with persistent withered bracts and staminate flowers, large fruits of a foot in length which are laxily held on the bunch and usually cooked and eaten; in India the term plantain is applied to the banana of the Westerners.

half the depth is filled with dry leaves, rubbish and ashes. The shoots or suckers are then planted and the pits covered with manure. There is no particular planting season. They are planted in all months in the fields. The *nendran* variety is largely grown in dry land areas from Thulam (October-November) to Dhanu (December to January). If well manured the bunches can be gathered by the Onam season in Chingam (August-September). The number of fruits in a bunch vary according to variety. In the case of the bigger fruits fifty is the average while the number ranges from 200 to 300 and more in the case of *palayankodan*. A bunch of the *nendran* variety contains thirty to sixty fruits arranged in clusters. The plant is used in a variety of ways. The unripe fruits are cooked and eaten. They are also cut into thin slices, fried in coconut oil and sometimes coated with jaggery and sugar. These preparations locally called *upperi, sarkara upperi* etc., are very much liked by the people. Plantain meal is considered more digestive and strengthening than that of arrow root and hence more suitable for children and invalids. Besides plantains the extremities of the flower shoots and the core of the stem are also used in curries. There is hardly any marriage or other auspicious occasion in which the plantain tree with bunches does not grace the festival *pandal* as appropriate emblems of plenty and fertility. Its popularity as a decorative plant is evident from its inclusion in the design of the paper currency of India. The stem yields a fine white silky fibre which is used in weaving.

Pine apple (Ananas Sativus)

Pine apple is a humid tropical fruit renowned all over the world for its good taste. It is capable of producing heavy yields and can be grown in the alleys of other widely spaced fruit crops. Where the temperature is high it is desirable to grow this crop in the shade of tall trees as in coconut or mango orchards. Pine apple perfers a well drained soil of open texture with irrigation facilities. It thrives with less care on the hill slopes than on planes. The crop is usually propagated by basal suckers. Slips that arise below the "apple" and crown and the crown slips that arise around the crown are also used. The plants yield in 12 to 18 months of planting suckers. They may yield two or three more crops on the same site after which they decline in yield and should be replaced. Pine apple is a good source of Vitamin A and C and contains a fairly large amount of iron. Canned pine apples are the most popular tinned

fruits in the country. Being largely suited to the canning industry, the pine apple is a very valuable crop which deserves to be cultivated on a larger scale. In Quilon it is at present grown on a large scale only in the Punalur and Pathanapuram area where the canning industry has recently sprung up. Large quantities of the fruit are also exported from here.

Cashewnut (Anacardium Occidental Linn)

Cashewnut is the most important of the dried fruits. A native of Tropical America it was introduced in Kerala by the Portuguese more than 450 years ago with a view to checking soil erosion. The cultivation of the crop has since gained great commercial importance. The cashew tree is grown primarily for its fruits which are known as cashewnuts. The cashewnuts are processed to obtain the oil and inner kernels which have great commercial value. The cashew apple, gum from the bark of the tree and timber are also products of this tree which are useful to man. The cashew tree thrives on any soil. It is drought resistant. It is met with practically in all parts of the District, though in recent years the area under cashew has shown a diminishing trend owing to the emergence of rubber as a major crop. The cultivation of the cashew tree depends on seasonal rains, and a regular monsoon therefore becomes an essential condition for the successful cultivation of the crop. At present, no systematic method is adopted for cashew cultivation. The tree is grown in gardens and home-compounds interspersed with mangoes, coconuts and arecanuts. Invariably it is grown in the corners of numerous house-compounds and outlying areas which are considered as unsuitable for the growing of any other crop. The cultivation is simple and does not require any elaborate preparatory, or after-cultivation operation. The tree generally begins to bear fruits three or four years after planting. Full bearing will commence from the eighth to the tenth year and will continue for another 20 years before decline sets in. The annual average yield of a tree in full bearing has been computed at 20 lbs. The raw nuts are converted into kernels and exported. A detailed account of the cashew industry in the District can be had from Chapter V.

Plantation crops

The major plantation crops of the District are (1) Rubber, and (2) Tea.

Rubber (Hevea Brazeliensis)

This is one of the most profitable plantation crops of Kerala. The State is the largest producer of rubber in India, the annual production being 21,000 tons which accounts for 97% of the all Indian production. The Quilon District is the second major rubber cultivating District in the State, the area under rubber being 46,458 acres. In 1958-59 Quilon had 18.4% of the total area under rubber in the State.

Rubber requires a warm and humid climate. Young plants or seeds are sown in pits of about 18" x 18". The planting season is from May to September. Usually 150 to 200 plants are planted in an acre. Tapping begins after seven or eight years. The period of tapping is from September to January. To extract the latex, which occurs chiefly in the bark of the tree, regular incisions in the form of spirals round the tree and so on, are made in the outer layer of the bark and the latex is collected as it drips from the incisions. It is then left to coagulate in shallow pans, and the caoutchouc globules rise to the surface and form thin sheet or rubber which is known as sheet rubber. In the case of crepe rubber, coagulation is done by using acetic acid. For removing water and for getting a definite shape the coagulum is pressed by hand. Then the sheets are allowed to pass two or three times between smooth rollers. The sheets are then usually passed through a machine in order to print the trade mark of the estate. These sheets are then washed. Afterwards they are placed in specially constructed houses, known as smoke houses and hot air with a temperature of 115° to 120°F is allowed to circulate in the room. This is done for fifteen days with the result that the colour of the sheet will change to black from white. There are three important types of rubber sheets, smoked sheet, latex crepe and scrap rubber. Of these the most important is the smoked rubber. Realising the importance of rubber production, due provision has been made in the Third Plan of the State for expansion of rubber cultivation. The target fixed for this is an additional 107,000 acres. Out of this, 20,000 acres will be in two Government-owned estates of 10,000 acres each at Koduman in Quilon and Kalady in Ernakulam. Under the scheme for cultivation of rubber in the private sector, long-term loans at the rate of Rs. 750 per acre are being made available to the cultivators who intend raising rubber on their own land, and also to small cultivators who have been given land for rubber cultivation.

Tea (Camillia thea Linn)

Quilon accounts for a third of the total production of tea in the State. In 1958-59 the area under tea in the District was 8,290 acres.| The tea plant is said to be a native of Assam. It is usually cultivated at altitudes ranging from 3,000 feet to 5,000 feet above mean sea level. It thrives well in light friable soil of good depth through which water percolates freely. After removing the forest growth planting is done. The actual spacing of the plants will depend on the lay-out of the land. They are usually planted in square, rectangular, or triangular patterns. Usually 3,000 plants are planted in an acre. "Hedge Planting" (planting in rows 5′ apart with a spacing of 2′ between the bushes in a row) is also done in new estates. Planting will begin in June or July. When the plants are about two years old and five to six feet high they are pruned to stimulate lateral growth and to develop them into a bush. Plucking is usually done by women and children. The young and freshly sprouted leaves with "two leaves and a bud" are plucked. Plucking is done throughout the year in various rounds. The average yield of a good estate is about 1,000 lbs. of prepared tea per acre.

Crop calendar

The calendar of agricultural operations for important crops in the District is given in Table XI.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

There are a large number of agricultural implements which are in use. They are mostly made of indigenous materials and with local labour. Their shape and form were dictated by the necessities of the time when they were invented. Long habits persuade the agriculturists to use them in the same manner as their fore-fathers did, though the demands of intensive cultivation call for improved implements. The following are the important implements.

The plough

The plough is the most important of the implements used by the cultivators of the District. It is used for breaking up the soil. The plough has often been the object of improvement. But the old wooden plough holds its own and may probably continue to do so for some time to come. It consists of a tongue of wood fitted with an iron point, a stilt for holding and a pole

TABLE—XI

Calendar of agricultural operations for important crops

	Crop	*Sowing*	*Harvesting*	*Peak Marketing*
Rice :	Autumn (VIRUPPU)	April to June	August to October	September to October
	Winter (Mundakan)	August to October	December to February	January to February
	Summer (PUNJA)	November to December	February to March	March to April
Ragi		April to June September to October	August to September December to January	August to September December to January
Horsegram		September to October	Decemebr to January	January to February
Greengram		May to June	August to September	September to October
Blackgram		June to July	August to October	October
Other pulses		May to June October	August to September December to January	August to September January
Sugarcane		March to April December to February	January to February October to December	February to March November to December
Ginger (Raw)		April to May	November to January	December to January
Pepper (Black)		..	Nov. Dec. Jan.	Dec. Feb. Feb.
Sesamum		December to January Aug. Sept. Oct.	March to April December to January	April to May December to January
Sweet Potato		June to August November to December	October to December February to March	October to December February to March
Tapioca		March to May July to September	November to June July to August	December to February July to August

to be attached to the necks of buffaloes or bullocks. This instrument varies very much in size, weight and form in different parts of the country. Local conditions also determine the shape and the size. The indigenous plough is condemned because it is not capable of inverting the soil due to the absence of the mould board. It only makes V shaped furrows leaving ridges of unploughed land and causes considerable waste of energy. The Agricultural Department is therefore advocating the use of improved ploughs with mould-board.

Levelling board

This is a heavy wooden plank generally drawn by bullocks or buffaloes to level the land. The levelling board is used when the field is prepared wet. The serrated formation at the low edge permits the water to flow through while working. The type varies with the locality. The levelling beam is used both in dry and wet seasons. This also is worked by a pair of bullocks. When used over dry land, it works as a clod crusher.

Rake, Harrow, etc.

The rake is used to break the surface clods after the plough has been used, to bring up clods to the surface to be afterwards smashed up, and to detach weeds from the soil which has been stirred. The harrow more or less resembles the rake and is used for the same purpose. It is also used to cover the seed after it has been sown. The harrow and the rake used in the District are all made of wood.

Inter-culturing and weeding implements

When the seedlings sprout, hand-weeding becomes necessary in the case of almost all crops. A small digger with an iron blade and wooden handle called *Khurpi* or *Kathi* is used for this purpose. The soil between the spaces of plants should be constantly stirred and for this different kinds of hoes are used. Worn out *mammatties* are used for inter-cultivating, weeding and mulching dry crops such as Cholam, Black gram, etc|. *Kunthalies*, *mammatties* and *Kalamanthies* are different kinds of implements that are in use in different parts of the District for inter-culturing and inter-cultivation.

A statement of the number of agricultural implements and machinery in the District (1961) is given in Table XII.

TABLE—XII

Statement of agricultural uimplements (1961)

Item	*No.*
I. Plough :	
(a) Wooden	51,355
(b) Iron	1,544
II. Carts	2,295
III. Sugarcane crushes:	
(a) Power	4
(b) Bullocks	217
IV. Oil Engine	28
V. Electric Pumps	22
VI. Tractors :	
Government	..
Private	4
VII. Ghari :	
(a) More than 5 seers	99
(b) Less than 5 seers	213

MANURES

The soils of the District are of poor quality. They are deficient in plant food materials as well as calcium. Hence there is need for extensive manuring. All concentrated and quick acting manures are applied generally to the young standing crop in one or more doses. The time of application is so adjusted that the field has enough moisture The dose of different plant foods to be applied for a particular crop could be scientifically fixed only after the analysis of the soil. Lime has to be applied invariably as most soils are deficient in it.

The common organic manures are cattledung, farm yard manure, compost and green manure. The modern manures in use include nitrogenous fertilisers such as ammonium sulphate, urea, calcium ammonium nitrate, etc., phosphatic fertilisers such as bone meal, superphosphate etc., and potassic manures such as wood-ash, muriate of potash etc. The distribution of fertilisers and manures is done mainly through the Central Depots set up in various parts of the District under the auspices of the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Travancore (F.A.C.T.) Ltd., Alwaye and Representatives authorised by them. In 1962 there were 7 Central Depots and 197 authorised representatives of the F.A.C.T. for the sale of fertilisers in this District. Of the 197

representatives 118 were Co-operative Societies and 79 individuals. The details such as the location of the Central Depots and the total quantity of F.A.C.T. and Government manures distributed through the Depots functioning in 1962 are given below[1].

	Name of Depot.	*FACT Manures sold*	*Government Manures sold*
		(M. Tonnes)	(M. Tonnes)
1.	Quilon	737	243
2.	Kozhencherry	786	338
3.	Punalur	652	127
4.	Paracode	545	269
5.	Karunagapally	350	77
6.	Pathanamthitta	25	..
7.	Kottarakara	..	..
	Total	3,095	
		1,054	
		4,149	

In addition other private companies like Parrys, Rallis, Shaw Wallace, Stanes, the Malabar Fertilisers etc., are also selling their fertilisers in this District.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

The various agencies which often neutralise the favourable effect of many of the factors of crop production are (1) natural calamities, (2) inroads by birds and animals and (3) pests and diseases. Crop damages caused by natural calamities like storms and floods are only occasional. So also are severe droughts. The District is free from invasions of locusts. Stray cattle however cause some damage. The common means of protection of crop from stray cattle is fencing. The common plants used for fencing are *Euphorbia tirucalli, Agava americana,* prickly pear, *lantana indica etc.* Mud walls are also put up in some fields. Pests and diseases, however, are responsible for the great loss of agricultural produce. The damage cannot be accurately estimated as the extent of it depends upon the

1 Source: F.A.C.T. Ltd., Alwaye. It may be mentioned in this connection that the Nitrogenous fertilisers that are distributed from the Central pool, e.g., Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate, Urea, etc., are referred to as Government Manures and all the rest are F.A.C.T. Manures.

severity of infestation in any particular year. The most important pests and the remedial measures which may be adopted by the cultivators are described below.

A. Damage from Insect Pests

1. PADDY

(a) Rice swarming caterpillar (Spodoptera mauritia)

The caterpillars damage paddy by feeding on the leaves. They appear in the field in large swarms and destroy the whole crop in early stages. The plants are reduced to mere stumps. The outbreak is sporadic. In order to destroy this pest, the fields are sometimes flooded so as to submerge the crops for 10 to 12 hours. Recently it has been found that this pest can be effectively checked by dusting the affected crops with B.H.C. 10% at 15 lbs. per acre.

(b) Paddy stem borer (Schoenobius incertellus)

These caterpillars bore into the stems and destroy the plants completely. The damage done is occasionally serious. Sometimes coloured lights are placed at night to attract these insects which are caught and destroyed. Dipping the seedlings in solutions containing .08% folidol or .05% endrin before transplanation and dusting with 5% D.D.T. or 5% B.H.C. at regular intervals till flowering are found effective in controlling the pest.

(c) Rice bug (Leptocorisa acuta)

These small greenish yellow bugs appear in the paddy field during the earbearing seasons and damage the paddy crops by sucking the milky juice of tender grains which become chaff in consequence. They may be controlled by collecting and destroying the nymphs and adults and by dusting with 10% B.H.C. at 15 lbs. per acre.

2... COCONUT

In spite of its hardy nature, the coconut palm is affected by a number of insect pests at all stages of its growth. The more important of them are described below.

(a) Rhinoceros beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros L)

This is the most ubiquitous pest of the coconut palm. It attacks the tender folded leaves and the infested trees receive a set-back and may even die. Its control consists in the

removal of beetle from the crown of the palms by means of a hooked pointed rod. After extraction of the beetle the hole should be filled with sand or sand mixed with 5% B.H.C. dust. During dry weather, filling of the axils of the central leaves in the crown with a mixture of sand and 5% B.H.C. dust in equal proportions give some protection to the palms. Various insecticides such as D.D.T., toxaphene, B.H.C., Chlordane, calcium arsenate etc. are also tried for the control of oryctes larvae in their breeding places.

(b) The black headed caterpillar (Nephantis serinopa)

The caterpillar causes extensive damage to the leaves of coconut palms, especially along the coastal and backwater areas. Due to its attack the vitality of the infested tree is lost, resulting in low yields. The infested trees are easily recognised by the dried up patches on the leaflets and the deposits of fras on them. The attack is especially severe during the dry months of March, April, and May. The simplest remedy is to cut off and burn all infested leaves or parts of leaves. As a measure of control spraying with D.D.T. 0.2% has been found to be good.

(c) Red palm weevil (Rhynchophorous ferrugineus)

This is the most destructive pest of young coconut palms. The damage caused by the weevil larvae is often fatal. It is estimated that about 0.5% of the palms are attacked by the pest every year. It is very difficult to detect its presence in the early stages of attack. The grub begins its life inside the palm and normally never comes outside. The early indications of the attack are just a few small holes in the crown from which pieces of chewed fibres protrude and a brownish viscous liquid oozes out. In many cases the drying up of the young heart leaves or splitting of the petioles near the areas of attack can be seen. The method suggested for the control of this pest is the removal of the dead and decaying trees and injection of infected trees with 1% Pyrocone-E.

3. TAPIOCA

The tapioca crop is usually affected by rats and scale insects. The control measures adopted are the application of zinc phosphide and spraying of fish oil rosin soap.

B. Damage from fungus

1. PADDY

The paddy crop is affected by a number of fungus diseases which account for considerable decrease in yield. Among the

diseases the more serious ones are blast caused by *Piricularia oryzae* and leaf blight caused by *Heminthosporium oryzae*. Blast disease occurs in all rice growing tracts of the District and is the most serious of all the known dieases of rice. Suitable measures to combat *Piricularia oryzae* are spraying the crop 3 or 4 times with copper fungicides such as fungi copper (1 lb. in 30 gallons of water), treating the seeds before sowing with Agrosan G.N. or ceresan at the rate of 5 oz. per cwt., balanced manuring and cultivation of resistant varieties. The growing of resistant varieties and seed treatment with Agrosan or ceresan at 5 oz. per cwt. of seed are found to be effective in counteracting the disease.

2. COCONUT

The fungi attacking coconut may be classified as those affecting the bud, the leaf, the stem and the root and systemic diseases like wilts. The disease common in the District is leaf rot. Spraying the crown and leaves with bordeaux mixture or copper fungicides etc., better cultivation of the gardens and the liberal use of potassic manure are advocated to combat it.

3. BANANAS

"Bunchy top" disease is noticed in bananas and plantains in certain parts of the District. The disease causes the dwarfing of the leaves. The edges of the leaves curl up. Some times the disease causes rosette of leaves. The control measure usually adopted to combat the disease is to cut off the affected plants at ground level and destroy them. The underground stem is also destroyed by pouring crude oil slush over it. There are also rare instances where the healthy plants are treated by applying 10 per cent B.H.C. dust over the leaf sheaths. Another unidentified disease locally called *"kokkan"* is of general occurrence in the *Nendran* variety. Reddish streaks appear on the leaf sheaths and the sheaths and leaf stalks turn soft and brittle. The growth of the plant is stunted. No remedial measures are being adopted except the selection of good suckers from disease-free plants for planting.

4. ARECANUT

The most important diseases of the Arecanut palm are the yellow leaf disease and Mahali or nut fall. The cause of the yellow leaf disease is not properly known. It is believed to be due to virus or to the rotting of the root system. The leaves become pale yellow. The yellow colouration is more pronounced

on the older leaves. The newly formed leaves are progressively reduced in size. The trees develop premature nut fall. The crown dwindles in size. In advanced cases the trees cease to bear fruits. If nuts are produced, they will be reduced in size and the husk is shrivelled. The kernel does not become hard even after maturity. The control measures recommended are spraying the foliage thrice a year with one per cent bordeaux mixture in May-June, August-September and December-January, manuring the trees particularly with potash (10 lb. of ash per tree) and green manure (15-20 lb. per tree), inter-cultivation of the gardens in November, and prevention of water logging. The Mahali is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora Palmivora*. Water soaked depressions appear on the tender nuts. The affected nuts fall off prematurely. The disease can be brought under control by spraying Bordeaux mixture.

Use of Insecticides and Pesticides

All kinds of insecticides and pesticides are being used by the agriculturists of the District. The figures relating to the consumption of insecticides and fungicides in the District for 1959-60 and 1960-61 given in Table XIV may help to give the reader an idea of their average annual consumption.

TABLE—XIV

Statement of Pesticides/Fungicides/Insecticides sold during the years 1959-60 and 1960-61

Name of Pesticides	*Quantity sold*					
	1959-60		*Value*	1960-61		*Value*
	Ton	*Kg.*	*Rs.*	*Ton*	*Kg.*	*Rs.*
B. H. C. 10 per cent	9	293	3,786.95	0	8061	3,627.15
B. H. C. 50 per cent	0	329	33.68		..	..
D. D. T. 50 per cent		..	..		..	..
D. D. T. 30 per cent	0	46	301.35		..	..
Lindane	0	19	19.00	0	21.546	21.50
Fish oil soap	0	10	14.52		..	..
Endrin	11	tins	66.77	29	tins	176.03
Zinc Phosphide	0	44	278.88	0	45.601	282.15
Agrosan	0	7	15.12	0	13.211	28.51
Fytolan	0	26	98.10	0	35.47	130.75

Activities of the Agriculture Department

One of the major activities carried on by the Agriculture Department for the promotion of scientific agriculture in the

District is the supply of quality seeds and seedlings to the agriculturists. There are three State Seed Farms in this District for the distribution of improved varieties of paddy. They are located at Kadakkal, Karunagapally and Adur and have in all an effective cultivable wet land area of 30 acres. Improved varieties of paddy like PTB. 10, PTB. 31 and PTB. 23 for *Viruppu* and UR. 19, PTB. 20, PTB. 4 and PTB. 7 for *Mundakan* are grown in these farms. The seed from the Seed Farms which is known as foundation seed is distributed to registered seed growers in the first instance. The registered seed growers' plots are regularly inspected and ploughed and harvested with special care and the seeds from them procured for further distribution among the cultivators. 5,000 to 6,000 *paras* of foundation seed and 10,000 to 15,000 *paras* of procured seed are being regularly distributed in this District every year. During the Third Five Year Plan period it is proposed to distribute every year nearly 80,000 *paras* of improved paddy seeds.

Two Coconut Nurseries, one at Nellimugal and another at Ramankulangara, Quilon, are maintained by the Department for supplying good quality coconut seedlings to the ryots. The proposed capacity of the former is 30,000 nuts a year and that of the latter 50,000 nuts. A total of 40,000 to 50,000 seedlings would be available for distribution every year.

The Regional Arecanut Nursery at Kureepuzha, Quilon, is engaged in the distribution of good quality arecanut seedlings. At present 50,000 to 60,000 seedlings are distributed every year, but its target is two lakhs seed nuts every year. In addition to the Regional Arecanut Nursery there are 15 certified Arecanut Nurseries at Anchalummud, Kottarakara, Karunagapally, Konni (2), Punalur (2), Ranni, Pathanapuram, Sasthamcottah, Adur, Chavara, Oachira, Chadayamangalam and Vettikavala. Each of these Nurseries has a capacity of 60,000 nuts. Under the Arecanut Development Scheme 6,000 nuts are entrusted free of cost to each nurseryman who on his part carries on all operations under the supervision of the local agricultural officers and sells good quality seedlings to the ryots at a fixed price. The nurseryman is eligible for a bonus on the total number of good quality seedlings distributed.

The distribution of agricultural implements, plant protection equipments and fertilisers is another major activity of the Agriculture Department. Iron ploughs, Japanese hoes, sprayers and dusters and various other kinds of equipments are distributed among the agriculturists at subsidised prices. Plant

protection chemicals like B.H.C., D.D.T., Endrin, etc. are also purchased and distributed for the control of pests and diseases. A comprehensive spraying scheme for the control of leaf rot and root disease of coconut is also being carried out under the supervision of Spraying Supervisors specially appointed for the purpose. The distribution of fertilisers like bone meal, super phosphate, ammonium sulphate, urea, calcium ammonium nitrate, etc. is done through Depots set up under the auspices of the F.A.C.T. Ltd.

In addition the Department has also its own schemes for the development of green manure seeds and compost production. In 1960-61 alone 484.5 pounds of glyricidia seeds, 1,685 pounds of other green manure seeds, 17,165 green manure seedlings and 1,318,415 cuttings were distributed by the Department in this District. Under the scheme for rural compost production compost pits are dug in all parts of the District. A total number of 8,688 compost pits were newly dug and 2,604 old pits renovated in 1960-61 alone. The total quantity of rural compost produced and utilised during the year was 14,756 tons. Under a similar scheme for the production of urban compost the Quilon Municipality produced 1,254.65 tons of urban compost in 1960-61.

The Department of Agriculture has also been trying to popularise improved agricultural practices among the ryots. In respect of paddy cultivation, the Japanese method is being commended to the agriculturists. Plots are selected in different parts of the District for experimenting the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and the plot owners are given a sum of Rs. 50 per plot to meet the expenditure under manure, pest control etc. In 1959-60 a total area of 42,700 acres was brought under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and in 1960-61, 29,655 acres. Coconut development is also given top priority. Talks on the subject are given at meetings and conferences convened by the officers of the Agriculture Department. 98 Coconut Demonstration Plots have been laid out in this District. The details of these plots are as follows. 70 coconut trees of fairly uniform conditions are selected in a cultivator's field. Of these 35 are treated as controlled and the other 35 are manured with the prescribed dose of manures. Records of yields of manured and controlled plots are regularly kept. Necessary advice on control of coconut pests like Nephantis, Rhinoceros beetle, etc. is given to the cultivators and the necessity for proper manuring of coconut trees and inter-cultivation of coconut gardens stressed and brought to their notice.

Agricultural Research Stations

The Department of Agriculture bestows special attention in the field of research with a view to increasing the quantum of agricultural production and improving the quality of the agricultural products. There are two Research Stations in this District, viz, the Rice Research Station, Kottarakara and the Soil Conservation Research Station, Konni. The Rice Research Station, Kottarakara, originally established in October 1940 under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, is engaged in the work of assessing the suitability of various improved varieties of paddy evloved from within and outside the State and selecting the best ones for the region through regular yield trials. The Soil Conservation Research Station, Konni was set up in 1958 and it covers an area of 30.04 acres. The research scheme here envisages the study of both agronomic and engineering aspects of soil conservation by lay-out of field experiments the result of which will help in the efficient execution of the Soil Conservation Programmes with special reference to the different soil conditions of the State. A Laboratory and a Meteorological Station are being established in the Research Station for conducting experiments on modern lines.

State assistance to agriculture

From very early times loans were granted to ryots for improving the land, for installing agricultural machinery and for similar purposes. But very little is known of the details of such loans. The bulk of the agricultural credit was supplied by rural money lenders. But when the depression of the early thirties began to take a very serious turn, their dealings with the agriculturists had decreased and fresh loans were not generally advanced. Hence the Co-operative Societies came to the forefront to render assistance to small agriculturists by advancing loans at prescribed rates of interest. But the rates of interest were by no means low. The Co-operative Societies lent at 10 per cent but including penal interest the rates went up to 16 per cent. So Government came to the rescue of the agriculturists by reducing the interest on Government Land Improvement and Agricultural loans from 6 to 4 per cent from the beginning of 1934-35. The dawn of independence and the consequent stress on increased food production effected changes in the system of granting loans. The rules for the grant of loans were liberalised. New loans for the purchase of manures, for execution of minor irrigation

works etc., were introduced. Now the Agricultural Department, the Revenue Department, the Co-operative Department, and the Community Development Department are all advancing loans to agriculturists for some purpose or other. However, the main legal framework for the advance of agricultural loans is the Agricultural Loans and Land Improvement Act of 1094 K. E. (1918-9). Table XV shows the grant of such loans in the District from 1955 to 61.

TABLE—XV

Statement of Agricultural Loans

Taluk	*Nature of the Loan*	*Amount in Rs sanctioned*				
		1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Kunnathur	Agricultural Loans under the Agricultural Loans and Land Improvement Act	Nil	Nil	5,225	10,850	6,950
Quilon	do.	5,000	Nil	29,765	32,000	37,500
Kottarakara	do.	Nil	Nil	27,150	27,000	18,850
Pathanapuram	do.	Nil	Nil	49,750	36,750	12,725
Pathanamthitta	do.	Nil	Nil	2,000	20,250	17,750
Karunagapally	do.	Nil	750	14,150	12,800	16,200
	Total	5,000	750	1,18,040	1,39,650	1,09,975

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Agriculture in this District as elsewhere in the State is mainly dependent on cattle labour. Cattle are required for cultivating land, for lifting water from the wells, and for carrying the produce from the field to the market. The investigation into the cost of cultivation of crops carried out by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (now the Indian Council of Agricultural Research) revealed that 15 to 25 per cent of the cost of cultivation is on account of cattle labour. This does not take into consideration the value of cattle as an important factor in maintaining soil fertility. In addition there is the profit derived from the hides, skin, horn and hoof of dead cattle.

Livestock population and prices.

The figures of the livestock population of Quilon District as per the Cattle Census of 1961 are given in Table XVI.

TABLE—XVI

Statement of Livestock population

(1961)

Items	*Number*
Cattle :	323,733
(a) Males over 3 years	54,358
(b) Females over 3 years	139,511
(c) Young stock	131,864
Buffaloes	28,363
(a) Males over 3 years	14,830
(b) Females over 3 years	9,300
(c) Young stock	4,233
Sheep	5,841
Goats	149,645
Horses and Ponies	4
Mules	1
Donkeys	..
Pigs	1,086
Total Livestock	510,673
Poultry	813,244
(a) Fowls	807,726
(b) Ducks	5,518

The District is not a cattle breeding tract and it does not possess any special breed of cattle of its own. The cows and bullocks are of small non-descript types and are stunted in growth. However, in common parlance the cattle are divided into different types according to the locality to which they belong. Draught cattle of good quality are very often brought from the neighbouring Districts, and from the bordering State of Madras. The important varieties of cattle brought are Sindhis, Kangayam, murrah buffaloes, graded murrahs etc. No cattle is exported from the District. The local breeds are of non-descript type. A milch cow costs between Rs. 150 and Rs. 350 while a pair of local bullocks costs between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500. A local milch buffalo costs between Rs. 180 and Rs. 350 while a pair of he-buffaloes costs between Rs. 350 and Rs. 550.

Improvement of Cattle

The improvement of cattle depends, among other things, on the selection of high class bulls and their utilisation for grading up the local animals, the provision of an adequate quantity of well-balanced food and the complete control of diseases that periodically take a heavy toll of the cattle population. The livestock census revealed the significant fact that

there were not enough bulls to serve the cows. This has been one of the reasons for reducing Kerala to the lowest position in the per capita consumption of milk. Hence centres for artificial insemination with airborne Sindhi and Jersy semen, are being opened. Grading up of the local cattle with Sindhi stud bulls and Murrah buffalo bulls is being pursued as a policy in addition to artificial insemination with Sindhi and Jersy semen. In addition to this Grant-in-aid stud bulls are also maintained. A District Livestock Farm is being set up at Kuriottumala (Pathanapuram Taluk) under the Third Five Year Plan. Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries are provided with medicines and appliances in order to enable them to play their proper role in preserving animal health.

The Key Village Scheme

Till recently all efforts in the direction of livestock development had been concentrated in a few Government Farms which could not touch even the fringe of the problem. But a systematic effort for the development of livestock was made during the Second Five Year Plan by launching what is known as the Key Village Scheme. A Key Village is a compact area consisting of one or more contiguous villages where intensive work is done on all aspects of cattle development, viz., breeding feeding, disease control, management and marketing. The Key Village Scheme is working in this District in full swing with its headquarters at Quilon, Sasthamcottah and Kottarakara and sub-centres at Paravur, Anchalummud, Mayyanad, Sakthikulangara, Chathannur, Kottankara, Parakadavu, Patharam, West Kallada, Nediyavila, Thuvayur, Pallickal, Sadanandapuram, Veliyam, Chengamanad, Kulakada, Ezhukone and Puthur. In all these centres air-borne semen from Bangalore (of Sindhi bulls and Murrah buffalo bulls) is being used for artificial insemination of local cows and buffaloes. Moreover 3 Sindhi bulls and one Murrah buffalo bull are stationed in the Key Village Centre, Quilon and semen is being collected and distributed to the other Key Villages from here. A scheme for giving subsidy to artificially born calves is also being implemented.

Poultry Farming

Commercial poultry farms are not in existence in this District. Poultry production is mostly in the hands of farmers who keep a few fowls each. The birds are allowed to roam about for getting their food from manure heaps and fields. According to the Cattle Census of 1961 there are about 5

lakhs of poultry in this District[1]. Poultry development is given special attention in the Five Year Plans. In addition to a District Poultry Farm at Quilon there is one Poultry Development Centre at Kottarakara. The main function of the Farm and the Centre is to maintain and supply improved varieties of poultry and hatching eggs.

Animal Diseases

Contagious diseases of a serious nature are not prevalent on a large scale in this District. However, they occur occasionally among all types of livestock in the eastern Taluks of Kottarakara, Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta which lie in the proximity of forest areas. The most important of the contagious diseases are Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black Quarter and Anthrax, which prevail in hidden pockets and flare up suddenly. The mortality due to these diseases has been brought down to the minimum thanks to the activities of the Animal Husbandry Department and the N.E.S. Blocks. Among the other contagious diseases of the livestock may be mentioned Foot and Mouth disease, Cow pox, John's disease and Tuberculosis, but their incidence is also very rare. Mastitis which makes yielding cows and goats useless in a few days is however found all over the District.

There are also some non-contagious diseases which occur as a result of bad management and unwholesome food. Ailments such as dysentery, diarrhoea, scabics, indigestion, etc., come under this category. Due to soil erosion the mineral contents of the soil are washed away in certain areas and the animals fed on the grass in such places suffer from mineral deficiency. In order to cambat the diseases arising from mineral deficiency the Department of Animal Husbandry encourages the supply of mineral mixture in the animal's ration. In addition the livestock in this District also suffer from another disease, viz., yoke gall. This may be noticed particularly among the working bullocks.

There are certain diseases which are prevalent among the poultry, the most serious one being Ranikhet. This disease is recorded almost all over the District. The preventive measure adopted is vaccination. Foul pox is also prevalent to a certain extent. Prophylactic treatment is carried out successfully

1 Attention is invited to Appendix VIII of Chapter VI where the annual turn-over in quantity and volume of eggs at the major trade centres of the District is given.

against this disease. Recently instances of Salmonellosis are also being recorded.

In order to check the incidence of diseases among livestock and to provide facilities for treatment Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries have been set up. There are 8 Veterinary Hospitals and 18 Veterinary Dispensaries in Quilon District. The Hospitals are located at Quilon, Karunagapally, Chavara, Pathanamthitta, Punalur, Adur, Kottarakara and Kozhencherry and Dispensaries are at Kottiyam, Channapettah, Vechuchira, Ayur, Kuzhikode, Mynagapally, Manapally, Maruthmonpally, Kuzhimathicaud, Chethomkara, Ranni-Perinad, Ranni-Angadi, Vadasserikara, Kadakkal, Kulathupuzha, Paravur, Ranni and Sasthamcottah.

The total number of cases treated and operations and castrations performed in the Veterinary institutions of the District during the period 1958-60 are given below.

	1958-59.	*1959-60.*
Total number of cases treated	34,312	37,330
Total number of castrations, operations etc., performed	2,232	1,372

FISHERIES

Introduction

Quilon has a long coastline and a vast extent of inland waters which give her a very important place among the fishing Districts of the State. The thirty mile long coast line is fairly even with only one permanent opening at Neendakara into the Ashtamudi lake. The presence of this permanent opening affords ample facilities for the development of a pucca fishing harbour at Neendakara. On the other hand the opening at the Paravur lake is a seasonal one. At Tangasseri, there is a minor bay formation and this region is also considered suitable for development as a minor anchorage for fishing boats. The sea coast is fairly free from rocks except between Tangasseri and Sakthikulangara region, and the sloping sea bottom affords excellent facilities for the operation of the Shore Seines. But due to sea erosion sometimes coconut tree stumps are encountered in certain parts of the Coast. The tidal influence is only moderate. The maximum height of the tides varies between 2½ to 3½ feet only. The tidal flow of water into the Ashtamudi lake brings with it a rich supply of estuarine fish

fauna and especially the prawns. Therefore the Ashtamudi lake affords good prawn fishing where there are nearly 900 Stake nets and nearly 50 China nets, and gives facilities for more than 3-4 thousands of inland fishermen who use nearly 1,000 different free fishing implements. Generally the fishing season starts with the onset of the Monsoons, and as soon as the severity of the Monsoons subsides the fishermen put out their boats into the sea and fishing goes on steadily till about the end of December. During summer months the catch is generally poor, if not almost nil and during these hot months the fishermen are hard hit.

On a fair estimate the majority of the people of the District except the High Caste Hindus include fish in their diet. Especially the middle class and the working class have almost a partiality for fish as an article of diet. It can safely be estimated that over 75% of the population of the District have no objection to fish eating. The District contributes an annual estimated catch of nearly 50,000 tons of sea fish and about 5,000 tons of fish from the backwaters and all other inland waters. This figure includes both fish and prawn. Valued at an average price of about Rs. 250 per ton of sea fish the annual estimated monetary value of the sea fish is about Rs. 1,25,00,000, and the inland fish valued at about Rs. 500 per ton contributes about Rs. 25,00,000. Therefore fish alone accounts for about 1.5 crores of rupees in the economy of the District. The important fishing centres of Quilon and the estimated annual turn-over are given in Table XVII

TABLE XVII

Fishing Centres and their out-turn

Name of centre	*Fish caught* (Tons)
Paravur	4,000
Eravipuram	4,000
Quilon-Wadi-Tangasseri	6,000
Neendakara-Sakthikulangara	6,000
Puthenthura	6,000
Pandarathuruthu	5,000
Cheriazheekal	6,500
Alapad	5,000
Other places	7,500
Total	50,000

Prevalent species of fish

The bulk of the fisheries of the District is contributed by two of the most important shoaling fishes of the West Coast, viz., the Sardines (*Chala, Vatta Mathi etc.*) and the Mackerel (*Ayila*), the thrid one being the Prawns (*Chemmin*). Quilon is also famous for the Butter Fish (*Lactarius Lacterius*) locally called the *Parava*. The Sardines come in the group of herrings and there are about a dozen species of them which along with the Anchovies contribute nearly ¼th of the total catch of sea fish. In the matter of the natural distribution of the fisheries of the State there are certain marked differences between the north and the south of Quilon. Oil Sardine and Mackerel occur only to the north of Quilon, which region is characterised by the presence of dug-out canoes and plank-built boats[1] (*Thangu valloms*).

Fishing equipments

The dug-out canoe and the plank-built boat are the only two types of fishing boats in the District that are generally used by the local fishermen. The dug-outs are made by scooping out the large logs of wood such as *cheeni, elavoo,* and Mango tree. These boats may vary in length from about 22 feet to about 36 feet and depending upon the length of these boats they are classified into three categories viz., big boats (32-36 ft.), medium boats (28-32 ft.) and small boats (22-28 ft.). The initial cost of making a good big-sized dug-out canoe would vary between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 4,000, and such a boat would easily last for 15 to 20 years even if properly cared for. During the first 4 or 5 years the annual maintenance cost would be rather negligible, i.e., less than a hundred rupees and this is for oiling and keeping the boat trim. On the other hand, when the boat becomes old or damaged some repairs have to be effected on the body of the boat and in such cases the annual maintenance cost may go up to Rs. 200 or 300 even.

The *thangu vallom* (plank built boat) is made by tying planks and ribs in certain set fashions. The planks used are mainly those of *anjili* (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) and they are

1 To attempt a systematic cataloguing of all varieties of fishes found in the District does not seem to be possible because of the fact that there are no authentic records of the District-wise distribution of fishes and there is no collection of the type specimens of all fishes. The cataloguing can be attempted only after a systematic collection is made and properly indentified.

tied together by means of coir ropes. The plank built boats are not so superior as the dug-out canoes, and the maximum price of a good plank built boat would be about Rs. 2,000. Its life is only 5 or 6 years. The annual repair charges are far more than those of a dug-out canoe.

The numerous fishing nets used may be broadly classified into (1) nets used in the sea and (2) nets used in the inland waters. The former consists mainly of seine nets and drift nets. The seine nets are of two types, viz., the boat seine and the shore seine. There are differnt varieties of boat seines depending upon the type of fish for which they are used and therefore they are called by different names. Sometimes the same type of net is called by varying names in different regions. Drift nets, wall nets or gilling nets are more or less similar. The main difference is that the drift nets are allowed to drift whereas the other types of wall nets and gilling nets may either be fixed or may sometimes be allowed to drift. Depending upon the use to which they are put these nets are called by different names such as *Chala vala*, *netholi vala* etc. The nets used in the inland waters are as follows.

Backwaters	*Rivers and Canals*
Seine nets	Bag nets
Drag nets	Drift nets
Drift nets	Wall nets
Wall nets	Drag nets
Cast nets	Cast nets
Stake nets	Dip nets
China nets	
Other fixed nets	

The Department of Fisheries had been providing Co-operative Societies long term loans for the purchase and maintenance of fishing crafts and equipments. In recent times fishermen are being provided with mechanised boats and nylon nets by the Department on the hire purchase system. The boats which are equipped with 10 to 30 H.P. Diesel engines carry a subsidy of 25% on the hull and 50% on the engine, the subsidy being met on a 50-50 basis by the Central and State Governments. A few Co-operative Societies have distributed nylon nets to its members by taking an import license on the recommendation of the Department. Accessories to nets such as plastic floats and hooks for line fishing have also been distributed to fishermen by the Department at subsidised rates.

Indo-Norwegian Project, Neendakara

The Indo-Norwegian Fisheries Project set up under a tripartite agreement signed between the United Nations and the Governments of Norway and India in October, 1952 is located in Quilon. The Project started its pioneer work in a small area of 10 sq. miles on either side of the Ashtamudi estuary. Its object was the all-round development of the fishing industry in the region and improvement in the living conditions of the local fishing community. This was sought to be achieved by the mechanization of the fishing boats, provision of repair facilities, introduction of new types of fishing gear, improvement of processing and curing methods, building one or more ice producing plants, supplying of insulated vans and motor crafts for transporting fresh fish, organisation of Fishermen's Co-operatives, improvement of environmental sanitation with main stress on the supply of drinking water, and establishment of a health station. The Project is administered by the Kerala Government under the general supervision of the Government of India and in consultation with the Norwegian Project Director.

As the first stage in a phased programme of mechanisation, the Project introduced a boat 22' length fitted with 4|5 H.P. semi-diesel engine. A Training Centre was also simultaneously started with a view to imparting training to the fishermen in the operational techniques. The fishermen trained by the Project are also given boats and fishing gear at subsidised rates. In order to meet the increasing demand for mechanised boats a Boat-yard and Workshop was started in 1954 with a construction capacity of 20 to 24 boats per annum. Different types of boats such as 22 ft., 23½ ft., 25 ft., 26 ft., 28 ft., and 30 ft. have been constructed in the Boat yard.

The Project has also undertaken a scheme for research into the conditions of the sea and its resources. A marine research vessel named *Varuna* of about 92 ft. length and fitted with 400 H.P. engine has been put into operation by the Project from Cochin. With a view to bestowing greater attention on the handling and distribution of fish an Ice Factory and Refrigeration Plant was set up at Neendakara in 1957. It has facilities for the production of 25 tons of ice per day with storage facilities for 100 tons of ice, 100 tons of fresh fish and 125 tons of frozen fish. Eight modern insulated vans have also been introduced to facilitate quick transport of fish

and prawns to the interior markets, where a net-work of local agents supplied with small freezing units take care of the further distribution.

Under the auspices of the Project the local fishermen have been organised into Co-operative Societies and these societies have been linked to a Sales Organisation to undertake better handling and marketing of fish for the common benefit. Further a Health Centre has been established at Neendakara in order to render free medical aid to all the people of the Project area. It consists of a T.B. Clinic, a Maternity and Children's Ward, a Preventive Clinic, two Curative Clinics and a Family Planning Centre. Several hundreds of latrines have also been constructed to improve the environmental sanitation. In order to ensure proper water supply to the project area and the neighbouring town of Quilon a Premo-Pipe Factory was set up in 1957 to manufacture the required pipes for water supply from Sasthamkottah to Quilon—a distance of 18 miles. After the manufacture of all the required pipes the factory was handed over to the State Government in September 1959 as a gift.

The Indo-Norwegian Project is a unique venture in international economic co-operation and judged by the results achieved so far it should be adjudged a great success. The Government of India have taken over the administration of the Project with effect from April 1, 1963. The boat buliding yard and workshop at Sakthikulangara and the Ice Factory and Refrigeration Plant at Neendakara continue to be under the administration of the Department of Fisheries. The Health Centre has been transferred to the Department of Health Services.

Inland Fisheries

There are also schemes for the development of the inland (backwater) and freshwater fisheries of the State. Accordingly, the Department of Fisheries have formulated schemes to convert fallow regions of the backwaters overgrown with marshy vegetation into fish farms. Similarly other shallow areas of the backwaters that can be converted into fish farms are likely to be taken up for development either by the Department or by interested public bodies or even by private parties. In the matter of development of freshwater fisheries, the important scheme is to stock the innumerable tanks and

other reservoirs, either small medium or large as the case may be, with fast growing varieties of fishes. There are two fingerlings distribution centres at Thevally (Quilon) and Pannivelichira near Kozhencherry in Quilon District. Soon a Freshwater Fisheries Research Station would be opened at Pannivelichira.

Fish curing yards

Fish is preserved by conventional methods. Most of the catches are sold in fresh condition for edible purposes. Fish is preserved usually when the catches cannot be disposed of in fresh condition. The traditional methods of fish curing are sun drying without salt and salt curing either by dry or by wet process. Out of the total estimated catch of 50,000 tons about 1|5th i.e. 10,000 tons is subjected to curing. The District is served with three fish curing yards at Neendakara, Puthenthura and Cheriazheekal, but in none of these yards is there any pucca fish curing shed affording modern hygeinic facilities for gutting, washing and curing. A detailed statement of operations in these yards during 1958-59 is given in Table XVIII.

TABLE—XVIII

Statement of operations in Fish Curing Yards (1958-58)

Name of Fish Curing Yard	*Fish let in*		*Fish let out*		*Salt issued*	
	Mds.	Sr.	Mds.	Sr.	Mds.	Sr.
Neendakara	20,204	00	15,135	00	2,664	00
Puthenthura	16,760	00	12,936	00	3,010	00
Cheriazheekal	19,560	00	13,830	00	4,200	00

Marketing of fish and marine products

Fresh fish is taken to different markets mainly by lorries, cycles and head loads. The age old system of carrying fish by the fisher-women is still in vogue, and they cover markets within a range of 5-8 miles even, whereas the cycle load merchants within 10 to 25 miles from the coast. On the other hand lorries transporting the fish cover 50 to 60 miles or even more and they take fish to the markets depending upon the demand. More than 60% of the catch is quickly transported to the inland markets in fresh condition and of the remaining 40% half is locally consumed, and the other half goes

to curing. In other words, as already stated earlier, only about 1|5th of the total catch is generally cured. Only when surplus fish is available, the fish is subjected to curing. The main fish markets in Quilon District are (1) Quilon (2) Kottarakara (3) Punalur (4) Pathanamthitta (5) Ranni (6) Kozhencherry (7) Paracode etc. A fish Marketing Co-operative Society is working at Kottarakara. Steps have been taken to organise a Regional Fish Marketing Co-operative Society wherein all the Primary Producer Societies would be members.

Price of fish

The average prices of some of the main varieties of fishes are given below:—

Lactarius	Rs. 456.00 per ton
Prawn	Rs. 350.00 „
Jew Fish	Rs. 357.00 „
Mackerel	Rs. 400.00 „
Sardine	Rs. 275.00 „
Sharks	Rs. 150.00 „

Marine products

The fins of the sharks are cut off, dried and exported to Burma and other countries where they are in demand.

The extraction of the Body oil is practised along the coast, and it is used for oiling the boats. The preparation of fish oil, fish meal etc. is not being done on a systematic basis and the manufacture of isinglass, fish maws etc. is not very common.

The collection of shingles from the sea coast is a very flourishing industry and only recently it has been brought under a system of departmental licensing. It is estimated that about 100,000 tons of drift shells would be available per annum.

Organisation of fishing industry

As in the other parts of the State, the fishing industry is controlled by middlemen. The active fishermen are all poor and they are indebted to the middlemen. Except a few of the fishermen in the Pandarathuruthu-Cheriazheekal regions, the majority of the actual fishermen are under heavy debts to the middlemen, and only recently a co-operative scheme by which the middlemen are excluded completely has

been put into operation. As per this scheme units of fishermen numbering between 200-250 are grouped into Co-operative Societies and such societies are formed in areas contiguous to one another and covering extensive stretches of the coast. In the Quilon District there are in all 24 Fishermen Co-operative Societies and a few more are likely to be organised in the near future.

Statistics of fishermen

The entire Quilon coast is thickly populated with fishermen belonging to the Hindu, Christian and Muslim faiths. In the Paravur-Edava region in the south of the District they are mainly Muslims, whereas from Eravipuram to Neendakara they are Christians and from Puthenthura northwards to Azheekal Hindus. Along the backwater region the fishermen are mostly Christians. Table XIX based on the Census taken by the Department of Fisheries in 1958 gives some interesting particulars such as the households of fishermen in the District, the crafts used by them, their indebtedneses etc.

TABLE—XIX

Statistics of Fishermen

1.	No. of households		4,201
2.	Average strength of a household		6.0
3.	Total number of members in the household		25,395
4.	Big boats		
	(a) Plank		222
	(b) Dug outs		241
	(c) Average per household		0.11
5.	Small boats.		
	(a) Plank		323
	(b) Dug outs		856
	(c) Average per household		0.28
6.	Nets		
	(a) Shore seine		401
	(b) Boat seine		731
	(c) Drift net		1,129
	(d) Average per household		0.54
7.	Line and hooks (sets)		603
8.	Income	Rs	19,06,675
9.	Average income per household	Rs.	454
10.	Debt	Rs	—19,60,018
11.	Asset	Rs	+5,53,600
12.	Average debt per household		
	(a) For debtors only	Rs	507
	(b) For all	Rs	495

FORESTS

Introduction

Nearly one-third of the total land area of the Quilon District is covered by reserved forests which form a permanent source of natural wealth for the State. These forests abound in a very large variety of trees, shrubs, vines and roots of economic value and a diversity of animals which are not only of interest to the sportsman but provide new openings for the scientist and the manufacturer. Judged by the geological formation of the soil and the existing old trees and the decayed timbers sometimes dug up in the low country, it may well be presumed that in the past the forests must have been more extensive in this region than they are now. The growth of population and the resulting demand for more land for cultivation were responsible for reducing the forests to their present area.

The influence of forestry on the economy of this District is considerable also because the forests give employment opportunities to the common people on a large scale. The agricultural population surrounding the Forest Divisions earn their livelihood through one or the other of the various industries connected with forests. Forests literally feed hundreds of families. In timber working coupes a large number of men are employed as wood and firewood cutters, mahouts, head load coolies, road workers, and as contractors' employees. Similarly a good number of persons live by wages earned by collection of minor forest produce, bamboos, rattan and reeds. The forest based industries such as ply-wood, paper mills, match-box making, packing case industry etc. afford reasonable means of living to many. Besides a large number of persons cultivate taungya coupes and thus earn their livelihood. In addition, there are people who live by engaging themselves in small cottage industries which use bamboos, reeds, rattans etc. of the forests.

The forests of this District which abound in valuable economic plantations like teak, soft wood etc. have also been a source of considerable revenue to the Government. The net revenue realised annually from them is about a crore of Rupees.

Early history[1]

Though Kerala has been a land of forests from time immemorial, no attempts were made till recent times to manage them systematically. The first reliable information as to the working of the forests in the Travancore area comes from Messrs. Ward and Corner who were employed on the survey of the country from 1817 to 1820 A.D. They remark that shortly befor their visit, it had been customary to rent each river for its timber (apparently only teak) and that this had nearly ruined the forests as it was becoming increasingly difficult to get large teak anywhere except in the far interior, but, that at the time of their visit, a new system had been introduced and the Government had begun to work down timber on their own account. Teak was then the only timber monopolised by the State, the other species of timber being free to the people except that they were subject to a light river duty when transported by water. The Forest Department in those days confined its attention to working down teak on the Periyar and Achencoil rivers, the total number of logs delivered averaging 1,500 a year between 1835 and 1842. In 1844 Black-wood and Anjily were also declared to be monopolies in addition to teak. In 1865 the duty on timber was adjusted and rules were published for the sale of waste lands both in the low country and on the hills, which permitted capitalists and others to take up lands for the cultivation of coffee and other products. These rules declared ebony and sandalwood to be monopolies as well as teak and black-wood. In July 1865 the felling of teak and black-wood and of all junglewood trees over 12½ inches quarter girth was prohibited and the method of charging duty on forest timber was slightly altered. Hitherto, it had been the practice to levy duty on the cubical contents of the logs, but as this led to great delays in measuring the logs in the forests and at every watch station it passed through, an order was issued directing that the duty be levied per log.

In the year 1866 an important Proclamation prohibiting the felling of teak, black-wood, ebony or any trees planted on the banks of rivers or any avenue trees was issued. In the same year another Proclamation forbade the felling of forest trees by hillmen and others for cultivation, if suitable

1 The brief account of the early history of the Forests given here is taken from the *Working Plan for the Ranni Forest Division*, pp. 41-42.

for coffee plantations. In 1866-67 the planting of teak was commenced on a small scale at Konni. In 1869 two more Proclamations, one prohibiting the shooting of elephants, and the other laying down rules for hill-cultivation were issued. This was the first attempt made to restrict hill-cultivation but it was not very successful.

For some time previous to the year 1870, teak was collected through contractors from areas in the neighbourhood of Konni and was delivered at places named by the Conservator of Forests, but about this time the contract system was given up and the Government worked down timber all over Travancore on their own account for about 9 to 10 years. All this time, nothing under 15 inches quarter girth at the middle of the log was permitted to be felled. Since the handing over of the control of the forests to the Forest Department, various changes in their management were brought about. Thus in the year 1871-72 the timber was delivered at the depot and sold in auction. In 1873-74, the people were allowed to fell the timber for themselves on permits for one year. The time was subsequently extended for 2 or 3 years longer; but though the returns were good, the forests suffered heavily as the people cut down trees in the most wanton way, not to speak of uncontrolled smuggling of timber. In 1878-79, the old system was again introduced and the timber was sold by Government from depots. The depot system was continued till 1882-83 when there was again a return to the old seigniorage system, merchants being allowed to collect timber on permits. But, in 1884-85, as recommended by the Forest Commission, the depot system was re-introduced and a reward of one-third the value of any timber other than teak and black-wood which might be confiscated as a result of timely information regarding its smuggling, was promised to the informer, the share for teak and black-wood being one-fourth. The contractors engaged for the supply of timber at the depot engaged a host of sub contractors who did as much mischief as the permit holders and were found to be just as difficult to control. The contractors held a sort of monopoly and brought to the depots only such timber as they could conveniently procure and as would easily sell. The poor people, finding it difficult to attend the depots in far-off places resorted to the clandestine felling and removal of timber from the forests. For these reasons, the depot system was abolished in 1887-88 and the old seigniorage system was re-introduced with

higher rates being levied per candy of timber instead of per log as formerly. In this year, the first real Forest Act was passed based on the draft prepared by the Forest Commission, as Regulation IV of 1063 M.E. Konni Reserve was the first Forest Reserve to be constituted in accordance with the above Forest Act in the year 1064 M.E. (1888). Since then, many tracts have been declared Forest Reserves.

In 1886, Mr. T. F. Bourdillon was appointed on special duty to make a thorough examination of the forests of Travancore, to mark and define those tracts which should be permanently reserved, to submit a report on their resources, especially noting the condition and extent of the forests of teak, to prepare maps showing the character of the forests in different localities and finally to bring to the notice of Government any points worthy of attention. In the course of 21 months spread over a period of 3½ years Mr. Bourdillon covered a distance of 7,000 miles, some of it by boat, some on horse back, but the greater part on foot. His *"Report on the Forest Trees of Travancore"* is a monumental work which describes the forest area river by river showing the character and nature of the forests. In 1892-93, Regulation II of 1068 was passed for better protection and management of the forests. In the year 1896-97, the Forest Department was completely re-organised on the lines of the then British Forest Administration. The Forests of Travancore were divided into 4 Administrative Divisions, the Divisions into Ranges and the Ranges into beats. The staff of the Department was given better emoluments and prospects.

There are at present four Forest Divisions in this District viz. (1) Thenmala, (2) Punalur, (3) Ranni and (4) Konni. The forests of each of these Divisions have certain peculiar features and it would be appropriate to deal with them separately.

THENMALA FOREST DIVISION

The total area of the forests in the Division is given below

Category	*Area*
Area under Reserve Forests	219 sq. miles 152.25 acres
Area under Protected Forests	Nil
Total	219 sq. miles 152.25 acres

The entire area of the Thenmala Forest Division falls within the Pathanapuram Taluk.

Types of forests

The forests of this Division are divisible into two major types (a) Monsoon Evergreen and (b) Deciduous as defined in the Champion classification of forest types.

Monsoon Evergreen

These forests occupy an appreciable extent. A few compact but isolated blocks of evergreen occur here and there. Generally speaking, the species commonly occupying the top canopy in the evergreens are: *Hopea parviflora, Dipterocarpus indicus, Artocarpus hirsuta, Dysoxylum malabaricum, Lophopetalum wightianum, Hardwickia pinnata, Terminalia travancorensis, Bombax malabaricum, Tetrameles nudiflora, Cedrala toona, Anacolosa densiflora, Ormosia travancorica, Eugenia spp., Mesua ferrea, Vateria indica, Xylopia parvifolia* and *Terminalia belerica*. Those in the second storey are, *Vitex altissima, Canarium strictum, Hydnocarpus wightianum, Sterculia alata, Diospyros assimilis, Diospyros bourdilloni, Myristica spp. Garcinia spp., Canthium spp., Evodia roxburghiana, Hymenodictyon excelsum, Cinnamomum zeylanicum, Aglaia roxburghiana, Humboldtia vauhliana, Holigarna arnottiana, Polyalthia fragrans, Pterospermum spp., Eleocarpus spp., Acronichia laurifolia*, and in low lying places liable to be flooded, *Lagerstroemia flos-reginae*. The third storey is composed of *Bocagea dalzelli, Atalantia racemosa, Leea sambucina, Xanthophyllum flavescens, Nephelium longanum, Asteriastigma macrocarpa, Ixora notoniana, Webera corymbso, Litsaea spp., Beccaurea courtallensis, Antidesma spp., Olea spp., Mallotus spp., Actinodaphne hookeri, Aporosa spp., Nothopegia colebrookiana*, and *Cipadessa fruticosa.*

Deciduous forests

The greater portion of the forests of this division is deciduous in nature, and they being more or less easily accessible from the low country, have been very heavily exploited in the past for teak as well as junglewoods with the result that the proportion of these more valuable and important species is decidedly low in the growing stock. The species commonly occurring in the deciduous forests are *Tectona grandis, Dalbergia latifolia, Terminalia tomentosa, Terminalia paniculata, Lagerstroemia*

lanceolata, Pterocarpus marsupium, Grewia tiliaefolia, Anogeissus latifolia, Adina cordifolia, Albizzia spp., Odina wodier, Spondias mangifera, Cassia emarginata, Hymenodictyon excelsum, Stephegyne parvifolia, Xylia Xylocarpa, Steriospermum xylocarpum, Steriospermum chelenoides, Terminalia belerica, Alstonia scholaris Schleichera trijuga, Bridelia retusa, Strychnos nux-vomica, Dillenia pentagyna, Machilus macrantha, Erythrina spp., Sapindus trifoliatus, Semecarpus anacardium, Buchanania latifolia, Careya arborea, Phyllanthus emblica, Miliusa velutina, Hollarrhena antidysenterica, Tabernaemontana heyneana, Wrghtia tinctoria, Premna tomentosa, Sterculia villosa, Bombax malabaricum, Bombax insigne, Flacourtia cataphracta, Callicarpa lanata, Trema orientalis, Randia dumetorum, Memecylon malabaricum, Memecylon edule, Olea dioica, and Ficus species. *Bambusa arundinacea* occurs here and there in patches.

Forest produce

The chief forest produce is timber. The chief minor forest produces are Cardamom, Big and small honey, Wax, Elephant teeth, Bamboos, Rattans, Reeds, Vakka fibre, Thatching grass, Fodder grass, Enthal leaves, Ponnom puvu, Kulavu oil, Punna, Maruthi, Pongu, Nangu, Black and white dammar etc. The volume and the value of the out-turn of forest produce for each of the three years for 1959-60 to 1961-62 are given below.

Out-turn of Forest Produce (Thenmala)

				Value in Rs.
1959-60	Timber	411,128	Cft.	15,99,654.00
	Poles	22,134	Nos.	66,402.00
	Bamboos	54,236	"	6,212.00
	Reeds (Pass)	764.715	"	4,307.00
	Rattans	670,750	"	13,868.00
1960-61	Timber	498,028	Cft.	11,28,779.00
	Poles	7,608		22,824.00
	Bamboos	Nil		Nil
	Reeds (Nos)	656,300		3,281.00
	Rattans (Nos)	608,850		12,339.00
	Rattans (Dry)	2,235	Tons	6,702.00
1961-62	Timber	373,551	Cft.	4,15,811.00
	Poles	7,962	Nos.	31,848.00
	Bamboos	6,900	Nos.	664.00
	Reeds (Nos)	846,350	Nos.	4,230.00
	Reeds (Air dry)	2,480	Tons	9,000.00
	Rattans	352,225	Nos.	7,396.00

Chief trees

The chief trees found in the Division are given below.

Valeria indica	Vellapine
Bassia latifolia	Illuppai
Calophyllum tomentosum	Punna
Myristicas	Pyne
Schleichera trijusa	Poovan
Dipterocarpus Bourdilloni	Karanjili
Hardwicka pinnata	Kulavu
Tectona grandis	Teak
Dalbergia latifolia	Black wood
Santalum album	Sandal wood
Artocarpus hirsuta	Anjili
A Integrifolia	Jack
Hopea parviflora	Thambagom or Kongu
Pterocarpus Marsupium	Vengai
Stereospermum xylocarpum	Pathiri
Terminalia tomentosa	Thembavu
Dysoxyleum malabaricum	Agil
Xylia dolabriformis	Kadamaram
Lagerstraemia lanceolata	Venteak
Calophyllum tomentosum	Punnappa
Cedrela toona	Thevathar
Vitex altissima	Myla
Adina cordifolia	Manjakdambu
Terminalia paniculata	Maruthi
Lophopetalum Wightianum	Venkotta
Messua ferrea	Nangu
Tetrameles nudiflora	Cheeni
Bombax malabaricum	Cotton wood
Eugenia Jambolana	Njaval
Polyalthia-fiagrans	Nedunar

Forest plantations

The total area of forest plantations in the Division is given below.

Type of plantation		*Area in acres*
Teak		3,500
Softwood		342.28
	Total	3,842.28

Means of communication and transport

The length of motorable and cartable roads comes to 40 miles and that of bridle paths to 35 miles 5 furlongs. The only

bridge in the Division is Neduvannoorkadavu. The details of rest houses and forest bungalows in the Division are given below.

Brook's Bungalow—Near Thenmala Railway Station.

Ettapadappu Rest House—13 miles away from the Thenmala Railway Station.

Edamon Rest House—Near Edamon Railway Station.

Ariankavu Rest House—Near Ariankavu Railway Station.

Achencoil Rest House—18 miles away from the Shenchottah Railway Station.

Forest Revenue

The total revenue and expenditure of this Division from 1958 to 1962 are given below.

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
	Rs.	Rs.
1958-59	20,07,596	5,44,130
1959-60	22,11,160	6,53,906
1960-61	15,63,012	4,31,136
1961-62	23,24,625	6,85,912

PUNALUR FOREST DIVISION

The total area of the forests in the Division is given below.

Category	*Area*
Area under Reserve Forests	112 sq miles 120.18 acres
Area under Protected Forests	Nil
Total Forest area	112 sq miles 120.18 acres

The Taluk-wise distribution of the forests in this Division is also given below.

Taluk	*Area*
Pathanapuram	103 sq. miles 380.18 acres
Kottarakara	8 sq. miles 372.00 acres
Total	112 sq. miles 120.18 acres

Types of forests

The forests of this Division fall into two board vegetational types, viz., the Evergreen Forests and (2) the Moist Deciduous (Monsoon) forests as defined in the Champion Classification of Forest types.

Forest produce

The chief forest produce is timber. It is worked down from the forests to the sale depots as round logs and sold in auction. In 1960-61 alone 639,426 Cft. in round logs of timber valued at Rs. 22,99,710 and 15,159 tons of fuel valued at Rs. 121,272 were sold from this Division. The chief minor forest products are (a) honey and wax, (b) wild cardamom, (c) Incha bark, (d) *Manjakuva* and *white kuva,* (e) Dammar (white and black), (f) Tanning and dyeing materials (Avaramapatta, Kareenchapatta, Karuvelampatta, Chappangam, Gooseberry, Kolinchi, Thembrakka, Konnapatta, Kadukka, Thannikka), (g) Lemon gross, (h) Medicinal products (Vembadampatta, Wild pepper, Valampiri, Edampiri, Vayambu, Kanjirakuru, Kazhanchikuru, Koduveli, Kokkamparanda, Rhabdia lycioides (Kallurvanchy), Garudakodi, Pathiripoovu, Nirvalam, Champaka, Kalpasi, Peppudal, Nilapandakizhangu, Amukkuram, Chittamrithu, Maramanjal, Kattunarunandi (*Hemidesmus indicus*), Mahanikizhangu (*Gymnema sylvestres*), Kurumthotti, *Cissampelos percira,* Palamkodi, Pullavara, Chittaratha, Odamkodi, Kalchida, Orilathamara, Pinchal, Puttumanga, (i) Edible products (Panjapullu, Mulayari, Wild jack, Mango, Yams (Kattukachil Nooran etc.), Chathavali (Asparagus), Channakka, Koova, Puli (Tamarind), Ginger, Nellika, Pinampuli (*Garcenia sp.*), Pavakka, Chundakka, Kandankathiri), (j) Spices and perfumery (Karuvapatta, Kacholam, Ramacham (Vlamacham), Kasturi mangal, Mattipal, Thamarapullu, Elavangam, Sinthooram, (k) Mineral produce used for medicinal and other purposes. Kalmadam (Silajit), Kalpal, Kalluppu, Induppu, (l) Nuxvomica, (m) Oil Seeds (Ilippa, Poovan, Marotti,, Nangu, Ramgotta pathri, Pindikka, Karinjotta, Punku, Odal, Pinampuli, Attu ilippa, Attu punna, and other produces Kuva leaves, Virali twigs, Plantain, Cheekkai, Kythanar and flowers, Panayola and fruits, Kora Pullu, Soap nut, Pulincha patta. In 1960-61 the income derived from minor forest produce in this Division came to Rs. 19,161.

Chief trees

The list of chief trees of commercial importance found in the Division is given below.

For furniture :	
1. *Tectona grandis*	Teak
2. *Dalbergia latifolia*	Rosewood
3. *Adina cordifolia*	Manjakadampu
4. *Artocarpus integrifolia*	Jack
5. *Dysoxylum Malabaricum*	Agil
For structural purposes :	
1. Teak	
2. *Pterocarpus marsupium*	Vengai
3. *Terminalia tomentosa*	Themba
4. *Terminalia paniculata*	Maruthy
5. *Lagerstroemia lanceolata*	Venteak
6. *Bridelia Retusa*	Mulluvengai
7. *Xylia xylocarpa*	Irul
8. *Hopea parviflora*	Kambagom
9. *Artocarpus hirsuta*	Anjily
10. *Diptero carpus bourdillonı*	Karanjily
11. *Grewia tilaefolia*	Unnam
12. *Vitex Altissima*	Myla
For Plywood :	
1. *Vateria indica*	Vellapine
2. *Machilus Machrantha*	Kulamavu
3. *Lophopetalum wightanum*	Vencotta
4. *Mangifora Indica*	Mavu
For Match Industries :	
1. *Alstonia scholaris*	Pala
2. *Evodia Roxburghiana*	Nasagom
3. *Salmalia Malabarica*	Elavu
4. *Bombax Insigne*	Mullilavu
5. *Ailanthus Malabaricum*	Matty
For packing case industries :	
1. *Trewia Nudifolra*	Chreni

Forest plantations

The forest areas suitable for raising plantations are being classified and planted with teak, junglewoods and teak mixed, match wood and teak mixed, and cashew. The total area of plantation in the Punalur Forest Division is given below.

Type of plantations	*Area in acres*
Teak-pure	1,374.56
Junglewood and Teak mixed	865.86
Match wood and Teak mixed	164.37
Cashew	253.30
Total	2,659.09

Forests and agriculture

Forests help agriculture to a considerable extent. They supply the green manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements. They provide natural grazing grounds for the cattle, so indispensable for agriculture. Forest products feed such industries as furniture and cabinet making, ply woods, paper, packing cases, matches, rattan work etc.

Means of communication and transport

There are no tramways, bridges, and rest houses in this Division. The chief means of communication are mainly roads. The Trivandrum-Shencottah Road, Quilon-Shencottah Road, Nilamel-Madathara Road, Ayur-Kulathupuzha Road, Edamon-Yerur Road, Anchal-Anakulam Road, Punalur-Kayamkulam Road, Pathanapuram-Punnala Road etc., are the main P.W.D. roads serving the forests of this Division. Besides coupe contractors have built a series of cart tracks in almost all reserves. They are not annually maintained but maintained only when required. In addition to the main roads mentioned above a series of secondary roads such as Shaliakara-Mambazhathara Road, Piravanthur-Kottakayam Road, Kalanjoorpadam Road and other unnamed roads serve the forests.

Forest revenue and expenditure

The total revenue and expenditure of this Division from 1958-59 to 1961-62 are given below.

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
	Rs.	Rs.
1958-59	25,71 760	5,76,047
1959-60	17,46,064	4,57,435
1960-61	25,77,258	4,76,853
1961-62	20,25,199	4,65,133

RANNI FOREST DIVISION

The Ranni Forest Division was formed only on July 1, 1958. The total area of the forests in the Division falling under the Revenue District of Quilon is given below.

Category	*Extent*
Reserve Forests	320 sq miles 104.49 acres
Protected Forests	Nil
Total	320 sq miles 104.49 acres

Of the above area 88 sq. miles 104.49 acres fall within the Ranni Range and 232 sq. miles within the Vadasserikara Range, both within the Pathanamthitta Taluk.

Types of forests

The forests in this area can be broadly classified into the following categories depending on edaphic and climatic factors:- (a) Moist Decidous Forests, (b) Semi Evergreen Forests, (c) Evergreen Forests, and (d) Grass Lands.

(a) Moist Deciduous Forests

These lie along the middle portion of the District and occupy the low lying areas up to an altitude of about 1,500 ft. With adequate fire protection, these forests tend to become semi evergreen as evidenced by the preponderance of the evergreen species forming the middle canopy and understorey in the area which were free from fire damage during the last 2 or 3 decades. The main species in the top canopy are *Tectona grandis, Dalbergia latifolia, Terminalia paniculata, Terminalia tomentosa, Terminalia belerica, Lagerstroemia lanceolata, Adina cardifolia, Schelie-chera trijuga, Hymenodictyon excelaum, Grewia tilaefolia, Alstonia scholaris* etc., etc. The understorey consists of *Helctris isora, Cleodendron infortunatum, Calicarpa lanata, Randia, Memecylon. Malabaricum Caesalpinia, Zizyphus Species* etc. Of late *Eupatorium* is forming an impenetrable mesh and keeping down natural regeneration in the area.

(b) Semi Evergreen Forests

The top canopy in this type consists of deciduous species noted in the moist deciduous type, but there will be a preponderance of evergreen species like *Artocarpus hirsuta, Trewia nudifora, Machilus Eugenia, Polyalthias, Myristica canarica, Hopea parviflora, Diospyros*, etc., etc. *Strobilanthus, Glycosmis pentaphylla, Curcuma species, Calamus species* etc. form the understorey.

(c) Evergreen forests

Species noted under item (b) with very little of the deciduous species characterise this type. They are generally noticed over a height of about 2,500 ft. except in river banks and folds of hillocks where they are seen even at lower elevations.

(d) Grass lands

Extensive grass lands exist in the upper reaches along the eastern limits and form the catchment areas of the rivers

that rush down to the Arabian Sea. It is interesting to note the abrupt and well-defined limits of the evergreen forests giving place to grass lands in the upper reaches over 3,500 ft. altitude.

Forest produce

The chief forest produce is timber. The main minor forest products are bamboos, rattans, honey and wax, cardamom, incha bark (*Acacia instsia*), manjakuva, tanning materials such as *cassia anniculata, phylanthus semecarpus, anacardium, cassia fistula* etc., lemongrass oil, nuxvemica seeds, karuva-patta (cinnamum) etc., etc., are among other minor forest produce. The out-turn of forest produce for three years from 1959-60 to 1961-62 in this Division is given below.

Out-turn of Forest Produce (Ranni)

Item	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
Timber round	113,688 Cft	296,396 Cft	513,500 Cft
Timber sawn	17 ..	1,150 ..	50 ..
Poles	14,045 poles		14,100 poles
Firewood	1,686 tons	727 tons	13,000 tons
Bamboos	4,400 Nos	7,000 Nos	9,500 Nos
Reeds	436,800 ..	611,612 ..	3,243,650
Rattans	482,100 ..	183,000	359,500 ..

Chief trees

The important species available in the Division are given below.

Botanical name	English name	Malayalam name
Acrocarpus fraxinifolius		Kar-incha
Adina cordifolia		Manjakadambu
Ailanthus malabarica		Mathipal
Artocarpus hirsuta	Wild jack	Anjili
Artocarpus integrifolia	Jack	Plavu
Artocarpus lakoocha		Thettiplavu
Bombax malabaricum	Red silk Cotton tree	Ilavoo
Calophyllum elatum	Poonspar	Kallupunna
Calophyllum inophyllum	Alexandrian laurel	Punna
Canarium strictum	Black dammar	Kunthirikkapayin
Cassia fistula	Indian laburnum	Kanikonna
Cedrela toona	Red cedar	Matharini Vembu
Dalbergia latifolia	Rosewood	Etti
Dysoxylum malabaricum	Whitecedar	Akil

English name		*Malayalam name*
Holigarna arnottiana	Black varnish tree	Cheru
Hopea parviflora	Iron wood	Kambakam
Hydnocarpus wightiana		Marotti
Lagerstroemia lanceolata		Venteak
Machilus macrantha		Kolamavu
Mallotus philippinensis		Thavatta
Mangifera indica		Mavu
Melia dubia		Malaveppu
Poeciloneuron indicum		Poothamkolli
Pterocarpus marsupium		Venga
Tamarindus indica		Puli
Tectona grandis	Teak	*Thekku*
Terminalia tomentosa	Indian laurel	Thembavu
Terminalia Paniculata		Maruthy
Tetrameles nudiflora		Chenni
Vateria indica	Indian Copal tree	Vellapayin
Vitex altissima		Myla
Xylia xylocarpa		Irool, Mullilavu

Forest plantations

The total area of plantations in this Division is given below.

Type		*Area in acres*
Teak		4,790.68
[illegible]		71.50
Cashew		106.50
Miscellaneous		243.60
	Total	5,212.28

Means of communication

Roads have been opened through reserves to meet the pressing demands of the occupants of food production areas and the several estates located in the eastern half of the District. In addition to this, the Sabarigiri Hydro Electric works have constructed about 60 miles of good road within the forest limits and these roads serve as means of communication and extraction of forest produce.

Revenue

The revenue and expenditure of this Division for the period 1959 to 1962 are given below:—

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
	Rs.	Rs.
1959-60	12,71,214	3,51,197
1960-61	20,65,086	4,29,463
1961-62	15,30,655	4,73,773

KONNI FOREST DIVISION

The total area of the forests in the Division is given below.

Area of the Konni Forest Division

Category	*Area*
Reserve Forests	274 sq miles 595.76 acres
Protected Forests	Nil
Total	274 sq miles 595 76 acres

The entire forests lie through the Taluks of Kunnathur, Pathanamthitta and Pathanapuram. The whole area is hilly in nature, the eastern portion being much more rugged than the west. The tract has two distinct valleys viz., those of the Achencoil and Kumaranperur-Kallar rivers. They are separated by ranges of hills which extend from the main ghats and lie more or less in an east to west direction.

Types of forests

The main types of forests are the Evergreen and Deciduous which have already been described.

Forest produce

The principal forest produces are timber and fire-wood. There are a wide range of species of timber in the local forests. The most valued are teak wood *par excellence* and black wood and jungle wood species such as Kongu Anjili. Vengai, Themba, Maruthi, Agil, Venteak, Myla, Irul, etc. which are good for construction purposes and soft wood such as Elavu, Cheeni, Vellapine, Ooravu, Evodia, Pala, Mavu, Venkotta etc. which are essential for the Match, Plywood, packing case and other industries. The minor forest produce comprises mainly of ivory, elephant teeth, bamboos, reeds, rattans, vakka fibre, rubber etc. The total out-turn of timber and other forest produce for 3 years from 1958-59 to 1960-61 is given below.

Out-turn of forest produce (Konni)

Item	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Timber (Cft)	357,465	309,994	383,569
Poles (Nos)	20,449	26,078	47,686
Sawn timber (Cft)	..	6	86
Fuel (Tons)	957	366 1/2	198
Ivory (lbs)	201	280 1/2	115 1/4
Bamboos (Nos)	27,711	54,813	47,819
Reeds (Nos)	420,350	218,650	379,600
Rattans (Nos)	8,850	200	200

Chief trees

The chief trees found in the Division are almost the same as found in other Divisions.

Forest plantations

In Konni Teak planting commenced during 1866-67 and it has been continued ever since with breaks during a few years in the initial stages. The area of different plantations in 1960-61 is as follows.

Category		*Extent in acres*
Teak		12,383.65
Kambagom		8.00
Softwood		72.74
Mixed		1,162.72
Bamboo		48.20
	Total	13,675.31

Forests and agriculture

The minor forests as well as the portions of the major reserves adjoining inhabited areas are of immense benefit to local agriculture in that they provide manure by way of green and dry leaves, and small timber for agricultural implements, maintain sub soil water level etc. No shifting cultivation is allowed in the forests. But in raising teak plantations taungya cultivation is allowed, i.e., along with the planting of teak during the first 2 years 2 crops of paddy and 2 crops of cereals are allowed. During 1958-59 on the whole there was an area of 593.61 acres under taungya lease.

Elephant capturing

Konni is the only Forest Division in this District where the elephant capturing operation is being carried on. There were 20 elephants in the beginning of 1960-61. Out of this 9 elephants were disposed of in auction for Rs. 56,572. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 42,983. On an average 35 old pits and 40 new pits are used annually for elephant capturing operations.

Means of communications

The chief means of communication are the roads from Konni to Achencoil, Naduvathumuzhi-Adukeera via. Mundomuzhi, and Konni-Adukeera via. Udumbannur Mundomuzhi.

These are all fair weather roads. Timber is transported through these roads during summer seasons and floated down the Achencoil river which is amenable for the purpose almost from its very source during rainy seasons.

This Division has a T.B. at Konni and 4 Rest Houses at Naduvathumuzhi, Mundomuzhi, Karippanthode and Thora.

Revenue and Expenditure

The figures of revenue and expenditure for the Division for the period 1958 to 1962 are given below.

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
	Rs	Rs
1958-59	[illegible]6,42,731	[illegible],545
1959-60	24,96,712	[illegible],520
1960-61	48,59,768	4,[illegible],131
1961-62	30,97,498	[illegible],28,311

Protection of forests

The Forest Act of 1952 and Rules framed thereunder seek to protect the forests from various types of injuries. The injuries to which forests are generally liable are from such sources as wind, fire, injurious plants, insects, animals and man. The various offences involving men pertain to clearing of lands, setting fire to forests, cattle trespass, illicit collection, possession or removal of timber or minor forest produce etc. Table XX gives the statement of breaches of Forest Act and Rules for the period 1958 to 1961.

TABLE—XX

Statement of Forest Offences 1958 to 1961

Name of the Division	*Total number of cases*			*Amount of compensation realised*		
	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
				Rs	Rs	Rs
Thenmala	114	92	130	1,606.00	1,530.00	1,135.00
Punalur	269	249	339	176.00	829.00	1,871.00
Ranni	429	659	343	590.00	1,495.00	761.00
Konni	651	226	122	721.00	1,159.00	640.00

Forests and Five Year Plans

The improvement of forests is given special attention in the Five Year Plans. It is proposed to bring more and more areas of forests under economic plantations like teakwood, softwood, wheetle, sandalwood, bamboo, etc. Moreover, Government have also taken steps to revise and bring up-to-date the existing Working Plans in this District considering the importance of these Plans as schemes for the management of the forests. A Working Plan Organisation Officer is posted to the Quilon Circle for this work. There is also a scheme for the improvement of the existing degraded forests in this District with a view to increasing their value and utility. During the Third Five Year Plan period about 5,000 acres of the evergreen forests of the Thenmala and Punalur Divisions are proposed to be brought under the scheme. The target of 1,000 acres fixed for 1962-63 has been achieved and the scheme is expected to be completed in stages before the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

Floods

The District is generally free from natural calamities of any great magnitude. Even though monsoon inundations occur frequently in the low lying tracts, destructive floods are very rare. However, the floods of 1057 K.E. (1881-82), 1099 K.E. (1923-24) and 1137 K.E. (1961) were of exceptional severity. About the first the following is the observation made in the *Travancore State Administration Report* of 1057 M.E. "The unprecedentedly heavy rains in the north resulted in destructive floods which caused much damage to property and some loss of life. Whole villages were in some places submerged and the country to the north of Quilon was for several days one sheet of water. This necessarily caused great distress among the poorer classes of the population". For several decades after 1057 K.E. there had been no such wholesale devastation by floods as in that year. But the floods of 1099 proved equally if not more disastrous. Of that it is recorded that "the unprecedentedly heavy rains that fell towards the close of the south west monsoon resulted in unusual floods in all the rivers of North and Central Travancore". The floods of 1961 were unprecedented in their magnitude. There was a continuous spell of heavy rains in July of the year. The rivers of the District were in spate. The low lying areas on the side of the rivers in East Kallada, West

Kallada, Munroe Island, Ithikara, Adichanallur etc. were under water. In Quilon town, the municipal workers colony and huts of washermen in Ramankulangara were flooded. There was serious disruption of the transport and communication system of the District. Almost all main roads were closed to traffic. There had been sea erosion of a serious nature near Sakthikulangara in Karunagapally Taluk and also near the Quilon town as a result of which huts in coastal areas were submerged and the fishermen were left without work. The floods had damaged a considerable acreage under paddy crops. Besides vast areas under tapioca cultivation were also under water. Five persons lost their lives in the floods while 183 houses collapsed and 1,278 were damaged. The crops on about 4,637 acres perished. The total cost of the road works proposed in the wake of the destruction caused by the floods was Rs. 5 29,800 while that on irrigation works was Rs. 4,57,880. During the ten days in July 1961 when the flood position was at its worst an amount of Rs. 7,870.65 was spent to feed 19,747 persons affected by the floods. Gruel centres were opened. An amount of Rs. 6,500 was spent on this account. Clothes were collected and distributed among the victims of the flood. An amount of Rs. 34,229.86 was spent in the District for relief measures up to November 1961.

Flood control schemes

The Master Plan for the utilisation of the water resources of Kerala includes certain schemes for the permanent control of floods in this District also. With the completion of the proposed Kallada Reservoir the flood damages at present experienced in the Kallada river basin are expected to be mitigated by effectively controlling the run-off of the river. Also the provision of locks and regulators would necessitate the formation of levees along the banks of the river to prevent it from overtopping its banks in times of floods and this together with the dam proposed at Parappar will effectively arrest flood submergence. The cost of constructing 35 miles of flood embankments will be Rs. 70 lakhs. Moreover, in the Achencoil river basin it is proposed to provide levees for a length of 60 miles up to the proposed Konni reservoir. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 1,25.00,000. Similarly to avoid the damages caused by floods in the Ithikara river basin a scheme known as the "Ithikara Yela Scheme" has been drawn up costing Rs. 6,57,000. Though included in the Five

Year Plan as a Medium Irrigation Scheme, it is primarily a flood control work. The scheme envisages the construction of a flood water outlet channel of 100′ bottom width from the Paravur lake into the sea so as to ensure that even at times of heavy floods the maximum afflux in the river does not rise by more than 4 ft. above LWL. Levees will also have to be provided along the banks to prevent the river from overtopping the bank. The cost of constructing the flood banks for a length of 23 river miles along with river banks would be about Rs. 46 lakhs.

Sea Erosion

A danger which the coastal areas of the District have to face is sea erosion. Government have recently taken steps to meet the danger. Two major sea erosion works are in progress in this District. One is in Quilon town and the other in the coastal area of Karunagapally Taluk. The portion from Thirumullavaram to Neendakara Bar in the first work is almost complete. The second scheme covers about 50 per cent of the coastal area of Karunagapally Taluk and is expected to be completed shortly.

APPENDIX—I

Distribution of Holdings

Sl No	*Size of holding*	*Wet Land*	*Dry Land*	*Total*
1	Below 5 Cents	23,697	49,995	57,317
2	5—10	47,632	69,367	92,309
3	10—25	107,101	181,616	235,372
4	25—50	7[illegible],045	165,418	200,284
5	50—75	32,231	95,074	111,504
6	75—100	18,027	51,749	62,472
7	100—150	11,969	61,818	75.116
8	150—250	13,243	44,785	57,900
9	250—500	9,411	26,359	38,015
10	500—750	2,491	6,457	10,180
11	750—1000	1,119	2,365	4,028
	Acres			
12	10.00—12.49	568	1,145	2,035
13	12.50—14.99	369	685	1,258
14	15.00—17.49	202	445	788
15	17.50—19.99	163	252	513
16	20—25	201	389	724
17	25—30	80	231	366
18	30—35	53	135	230
19	35—40	63	99	172
20	50—45	41	76	140
21	45—50	31	39	88
22	50—60	18	61	121
23	60—75	32	65	111
24	75—100	37	48	92
25	100—150	28	39	74
26	150—200	10	18	39
27	200—300	6	32	39
28	300—500	4	11	16
29	500—1000	1	10	14
30	Over 1000	2	7	10
	Total	318,904	757,800	951,327

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old time industries

The Quilon District occupies a very important place in the industrial map of Kerala State. Several old time industries have flourished in important centres of this District even from very early days. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer speaking in 1936 had to say as follows about the industrial traditions of Travancore. "Various cottage industries have, for centuries obtained firm foothold in the country and cotton weaving and coir making, wood and ivory carving, screw pine work and carpentry are well known for their artistic excellence throughout the world, and during recent years the enterprising fishing community has under the far-sighted supervision of philanthropic agencies, developed the lace industry which has acquired a name for delicacy and durability".[1] These remarks are applicable to the Quilon District with equal validity. The traditional arts peculiar to this District have been wood carving, handloom weaving, lace and embroidery, screw pine mat weaving, straw and bark work, silver spoon making, preparation of coconut jaggery etc. Almost all these old time industries continue to flourish in this District under the patronage of Government and quasi-government agencies even today. There have, however, been periods of stagnation and decline for these industries. Failure to adopt improved techniques and to achieve economies in organisation and production through co-operation have been some of the obstacles hampering their development. There has also been the bottle-neck created by the problems of unsold stock and subsequent decline in production and employment. A detailed account of some of the traditional industries still flourishing in the District can be had from the section on "Industrial Arts" in this Chapter.

1 Broadcast talk given by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer on Travancore from Bombay Radio on September 27, 1936 quoted in the *Travancore State Manual*, T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 543.

POWER

Hydro electric power was first introduced in the erstwhile State of Travancore in 1906. In that year a firm of European planters in the Kottayam District installed a plant of 200 K.W. capacity for the supply of power to their factories. The supply of power for the town of Quilon was undertaken by the Travancore Government early in 1110 K.E. (1934 A.D.). The Power House was equipped with three Mirrlees D'esel sets of a total capacity of 240 K.W. The length of the overhead lines extended to 26 miles at the end of 1936.[1]

At the same time the attention of the Travancore Government was focussed on the investigation of the possibility of providing cheap power for the industrial requirements of the State. Investigations were conducted and details collected for twelve schemes of which the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project was considered the most economical. The scheme was sanctioned in 1933. In the same year the Electricity Department of the Travancore State was set up. The Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project (Kottayam District) is the chief source of power in the Quilon District.[2] It has considerably facilitated the industrialisation of the District. It helped the State Forest Department to set up a Pulp and Paper Factory at Punalur by utilising the abundant supply of local reeds (*Ochlandria Travancorica*). The project also led to the successful exploitation of the rich deposits of China clay available in the District. Industries that work on electricity in the area include ceramics, textiles, minerals, chemicals, aluminium products, paper, cashewnut, plywood, etc. A large number of tile factories, saw mills and oil mills are also run by electric power. Supply of electricity for agricultural purposes or for small scale industries is also given top priority.

The other source of power supply in the District is the Sengulam Hydro Electric Station, (Kottayam District) which is an ancillary of the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Station.

The Kerala State Electricity Board is in charge of the distribution of electricity. The most important officers

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1 With the extension of the Pallivasal Hydro Electric System in 1940 to this District and the construction of major transmission lines and transforming stations it was closed down.

2 Detailed particulars of the project will be given in the *Kottayam District Gazetteer*.

of the Board concerned with distribution in this District are the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Quilon and the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Pallom. A table containing statistics relating to power generation and distribution in the District is given below.

Table showing particulars concerning electricity generation and distribution in Quilon*

1.	Source of power :	Pallivasal and Sengulam Hydro Electric Stations
2.	Receiving Stations :	110 K. V. Sub-Station, Kundara 66 K. V. Sub-Station, Kundara 66 K. V. Sub-Station, Punalur
3.	Number of towns and villages electrified as on 1st March 1961	268
4.	Number of consumers of power as on 30th July 1961	23,480
5.	Number of street lights	9,349

*Source : Chief Engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board.

Sabarigiri Hydro Electric Project

The Sabarigiri Hydro Electric Project, one of India's major Hydro Electric Projects and the second biggest of its kind to be undertaken in the State, is in this District. It was formerly proposed to be implemented in two stages and was known as the Pamba Hydro Electric Project. An integrated Project estimated to cost about Rs. 30.9 crores was approved in August 1960 by the Planning Commission and the State Government decided to name the Project the Sabarigiri Hydro Project, after the famous Sabarimala to the south of which the works of the Project are located. The Project envisages the harnessing of the hydro electric potential of the River Pamba and its tributary Kakki. When completed, it will have an installed capacity of 3 lakhs k.w of power, which will be more than the capacity of all the other Power Stations in the State put together. The United States Government have sanctioned loans to finance the entire anticipated cost of this Project.

Under the Sabarigiri Hydro Electric Project, a dam will be constructed at Pamba to impound the waters of the Pamba river and to form a Reservoir. Another Reservoir will be formed at Kakki river. These two Reservoirs will be interconnected by a tunnel 10,524′ in length, which will enable the waters of the Pamba Reservoir to flow into the Kakki Reservoir. From the latter, another tunnel 18,100′ in length will carry the water to the head of the Generating Station. The Generating Station will be located on the right bank of

Moozhiyar, a stream which joins the River Kakkad, which is also a tributary of the Pamba. Six numbers of 50,000 k.w. generators will be installed at the Power House at Moozhiyar. The dam sites, the tunnels and the site for the Power House are all in the Reserve Forest areas of the Ranni Division in the Pathanamthitta Taluk. The power generated from the Station will be transmitted to Pallom (near Kottayam) and Alwaye through a 220 K.V. Line from where it will be distributed to the consumers.

During the Second Plan Period, preliminary works like laying of approach roads, construction of buildings and quarters etc., were undertaken in the Project area and an amount of Rs. 1.25 crores was spent. The work is now in full swing. The entire Scheme is expected to be completed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period.

MINING AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES

There are no large scale mining and heavy industrial units operating in the District, e.g., collieries, ship-building industries, manufacture of machine tools and automobiles etc. The mineral possibilities of this District are however very great. More than half a century ago the valuable mineral deposits of the Quilon coast came to be known. These deposits containing Monazite were not only the richest in the world but are reported to have the highest content of Thorium, nearly double the Thorium content of Monazite from the Brazilian source. They contain as much as 90% heavy minerals of which 70% is Ilmenite. In addition they contain other minerals such as Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite etc., which have high commercial value. The commercial value of each of these minerals is described below.

The story of Thorium is woven round the Gas Mantle. When electricity was not in common domestic use for lighting purposes, and people were accustomed to the indigenous lighting devices, the advent of the gas lamp with its greater brilliancy was enthusiastically welcomed. The mantle of the gas lamp could stand great heat. Thorium derived out of Monazite was in use for the manufacture of these gas mantles. With the popularity in the use of electricity and electric filament lamps for lighting purposes, the importance of Monazite for extraction of Thorium for manufacture of mantles was lost. The discovery of the use of atomic energy and the part Thorium

played in that connection once again revived the importance of Monazite. Thorium is also used in the production of alloys with magnesium for rockets and missiles because these alloys do not melt or disintegrate even at fantastic speeds that have to be developed by them.

Ilmenite is a double Oxide of Iron and Titanium. Titanium-di-Oxide is now being used increasingly in the manufacture of paints, plastics, cosmetics, cloth, paper and other white products. Consequently wherever there is any white material to be produced by any Industry, it inevitably needs the use of Titanium-di-Oxide for giving it a most attractive finish. In fact, Titanium metal is the wonder metal of tomorrow with its properties of light weight, toughness, its anti-corrosive properties against sea water or other corrosive chemicals, its high melting point etc. Unfortunately due to the intricate and expensive smelting process, it has not yet come in general use.

Rutile which is another mineral co-existing with Ilmenite in the beach sands is the natural form of Titanium Oxide with no Iron impurity. It is, therefore, most suitable for extraction of Titanium. Rutile is largely used in the manufacture of arc-welding electrodes. With the increasing substitution of welding of steel in place of riveting, the demand for arc-welding electrodes has increased considerably.

Zircon is used in the refractory trade and has a high melting point—2500°C. It is said that Platinum group of metals are melted in vessels made of Zirconium and that during the last war, Germans used Zirconium steel for armour plates. Zircon is also used for the manufacture of crucibles, furnace linings, pyrometer sheaths etc. It is also anti-corrosive to sea water or any corrosive chemicals. With certain other elements Zircon yields an alloy which is a good substitute for Platinum.

Travancore Minerals Ltd.

The first attempt at exploitation of these mineral resources of the Kerala Coast was made by a German Concern in 1911 which was taken over by British interest at the end of the First World War and the area of operations extended further. In 1947-48, the former Travancore State took over the three plants operating in the field—two at Chavara in Quilon District and another at Manavalakurichi in the present Kanyakumari District. The importance of these sands to the nation increased appreciably following the developments in the field of atomic

energy because of the presence of inexhaustible quantities of substances like Thorium, Uranium and Zirconium. In 1956, the Central Government decided to nationalise the Mineral Sands industry by stages. A beginning was made by forming a Private Limited Company known as Travancore Minerals Private Limited, with the share capital subscribed in equal proportions by the Government of India and the Government of Kerala. The Company took over the two plants at Chavara belonging to the Kerala Government. The Madras Government Plant at Manavalakurichi was taken over by the Travancore Minerals Private Limited on January, 1, 1959 and the Madras Government are participating in the capital and management of this Company. The Company comes under the Mines Act 1952. The Registered Capital of the Company is Rs. 1 crore of which 50% has been issued and paid up. The entire Issued Capital of Rs. 50 lakhs was originally subscribed equally between the Central Government and the Kerala Government. After the taking over of the Manavalakurichi Plant by the Company the Government of Madras has taken up a 5% share in the capital out of the Kerala Government holdings.

Although the Management is in the hands of a Board of Directors consisting of nominees of the participating Governments, the entire control over the production and sale is in the hands of the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India, who fixes the allotments and sale prices. The Board looks after the policy matters and other important problems connected with the administration of the Concern. The Management is in the charge of a Chief Administrative Officer, who has been vested with requisite powers by the Board. Each of the factories is managed by an experienced Officer who has under him large number of technical assistants in charge of the different departments such as production, testing, engineering etc. The total number of people employed by the Company is about 2,000 comprising of the permanent, temporary, contract and seasonal workers. The total amount paid in 1959-60 by way of salaries, wages and bonus came to Rs. 41,65,057.65.

The Company at present produces mostly Ilmenite, approximately 140,000 tons a year, and almost the whole of the production is exported either to U.S.A. or England. During the year 1959|60 the export to U.S.A. amounted to 20,000 tons and to England 104,000 tons. The Industry has been a good foreign-exchange earner. The annual output is of the order of a Crore of Rupees.

As stated earlier the Travancore Minerals Ltd., has two factories at Chavara in this District and one at Manavalakurichi in the Kanyakumari District of Madras State. The products of Manavalakurchi are slightly inferior in quality compared to those of Quilon. The exports are chiefly those of the Quilon Grade Ilmenite which commands a much better market and fetches a higher price than the Manavalakurichi Grade. Monazite is produced from the tailings of Ilmenite production. At present the small quantity produced by the Company is entirely meant for use by the Indian Rare Earths Factory, a Government Concern. Since no export of Monazite is permitted by the Government of India, the total production of Monazite (80 M. tonnes in 1960) is always limited to the maximum requirements of the Indian Rare Earths which are its only customers at present.

The annual production of Rutile in Kerala is 980 M tonnes valued at Rs. 2.82 lakhs. Rutile is mostly sold within the country to manufacture arc-welding electrodes. As a result of the increased production of such electrodes consequent upon the replacement of riveting by welding, the demand for Rutile has also been growing. As the quantity produced by the Company is limited it has not been able to supply the increasing demand for Rutile.

The Company's production of Zircon is also small. Recently there have been enquiries from foreign countries regarding the prospects of supplying Zircon and the company expects to produce reasonable quantities if there is an encouraging demand.

The production and sale of the minerals are controlled by the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India, Bombay. This Department determines the quantities to be allotted to the buyers on the basis of the offers from the latter, and also fixes the prices for the minerals. Such allotments are made every year during the months of June|July in respect of the succeeding year. Parties interested in any of the minerals have therefore to contact the Department of Atomic Energy, Bombay, for allotments and for negotiation of prices.

Till recently it was expected that there was considerable scope for expansion of the mineral industry at Chavara. However many other countries like Canada, South Africa, Malaya, Ceylon and Norway have recently taken up the production of Ilmenite. Whereas in 1940 India used to contribute 90% of world production of Ilmenite, now its share is only 25%. Not

only India's monopoly in the mineral was lost, but the international buyers preferred the other countries for their purchases. Moreover, irregular supplies made through the Koilthottam port mainly due to labour difficulties, also resulted in the loss of contracts with importers in U.S.A. and adversely affected the industry. Therefore in 1962 the Travancore Minerals closed down one of its plants, and has also announced that it would close the second one in March 1963.

F. X. Periera Minerals

Another important industrial concern engaged in the processing of mineral sands in the Quilon coast is the F. X. Periera Minerals. The Factory was first started in 1932 as a private concern owned by F. X. Periera & Sons Travancore (Private) Ltd., Quilon. It was taken over by the Government of Kerala in 1956. The number of persons employed by the Factory in May 1962 was 411. The amount paid by the Government by wages and other benefits to workers comes to about 7 lakhs of rupees every year. The following is a statement of the principal products manufactured by the Company together with their quantity and value for the period 1957-1962.

Description of products	*Quantity produced*	*Value based on average or estimated price*
	Tons	Naked at works price
Ilmenite	2,026,32—13	Rs. 70 up to 1,000 tons Rs. 63.33 above 1,000 tons but below 10,000 tons Rs. 60.00 above 10,000 tons
Rutile	1,154—16	Ex Factory Chavara Rs. 1,000 N. A. W. per ton

The products of the Company are sold directly by the Department of Atomic Energy, Bombay. The United States and United Kingdom are the principal markets for Ilmenite while Rutile is sold in Calcutta and Bombay.

Hopkins and Williams

Yet another unit engaged till recently in the extraction of Ilmenite at Chavara was Hopkins and Williams. While the other mineral companies passed under Government management, Hopkins and Williams continued in private hands till 1959. By this time some difficulties with labour cropped up. Moreover, the firm also accumulated arrears of royalty to the tune of Rs. 28 lakhs. Its export contracts lapsed, and the management decided to close down the unit.

LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

The State has played an important part in the industrialisation of the Quilon District. There are three industrial concerns in Quilon which are owned by the Government, viz., Travancore Plywood Industries, Punalur, Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara and Kerala Government Ceramics, Kundara. The Electrical and Allied Industries, Kundara is an important industrial concern managed by the Government while the Punalur Paper Mills Ltd., the United Electrical Industries Ltd., Pallimukku and the Aluminium Industries Ltd., Kundara are concerns in which Government own large number of shares. Brief accounts of each of these industrial concerns are given below.

The Travancore Plywood Industries, Punalur

This factory which provides livelihood for about 200 families in the District manufactures high class tea chest panels, commercial panels, decorative panels, flush doors etc. Originally started on a modest scale in Trivandrum in 1939 it commenced production of tea chest panels for which there was a large demand from the tea estates in the State. In 1940 the factory was brought under the control of the Forest Department. In November, 1943 it was shifted to Mukkadavur on the banks of the Kallada river two miles north of Punalur town. Timber which is the most important raw material required for this industry is available in plenty in the forests adjoining Punalur. It may be mentioned that the factory consumes about 1,800 to 2,000 tons of soft timber per year. Punalur was selected as the site for this industry also because of its nearness to the Railway Station, and the availability of road and water transport facilities. In its new venue, the factory entered into large scale production of tea chests and commercial plywood panels. The production ranged between 4,000 and 5,000 sq. ft. per day. In the same year, the factory was registered as a public limited company with a share capital of Rs. 10 lakhs, of which 51% belonged to the Government. Early in 1947 a significant change occurred when Travancore Government took over the complete ownership of the factory and the Conservator of Forests was appointed as the Director-in-charge. The time was propitious for the industry. The restrictionist import policy of the Government of India in regard to plywood boosted up the demand for Indian Plywood. When the Government took over the management, the factory had a closing

stock of 16 lakhs sq. ft. of commercial plywood valued at Re. 0.14 per sq. ft. The major portion of this stock was converted into tea chest panels. Production was stepped up to 6,000 sq. ft. per day. The profit earned during the first eight months of 1947 was Rs. 27,000. From August 1947, the factory began to work in full swing with the then existing machinery and equipments. In 1947-48 the net profit earned was Rs. 2.4 lakhs.

A large portion of the machinery installed here is made in India e.g., 56" Peeling Lathe, Press, Drying Chambers etc. In addition the most modern equipments like 88" Coe Veneer, Peeling Lathe, Coe Knife Grinder and Automatic Coe Dyer, Tapeless Splicer, Veneer Jointer, 3-Drum Sander etc., have been imported from the U.S.A. and Europe. These were erected in the years 1950-53.

In 1959 the production ranged from 2 to 2.5 million sq. ft. M|s. K.D.H.P. Co., Ltd., a leading tea-firm of Munnar is the main purchaser of the bulk of the output, which is mainly used in the packing of tea. The potential capacity of the factory is 3 million sq. ft. of plywood per year in a single shift. The following is a statement of the products of this industry with such details as the quantity and value of the produce for the period 1958-61.

Description of products	*Quantity produced*	*Value based on average or estimated price*
Tea chest and Commercial Panels		
1958-59	22,30,184 sq. ft.	Rs. 5,15,534
1959-60	15,26,893 ,,	Rs. 4,02,480
1960-61	20,08,446 ,,	Rs. 5,21,572

Till 1958 the Chief Conservator of Forests continued to be the Director-in-charge of the concern with a separate office at Trivandrum. In March, 1958 this set-up was abolished and in his place was appointed a General Manager who continued to enjoy the powers of the Director. The concern was also brought under the administrative control of the Department of Industries and Commerce. A six member Managing Council consisting of the General Manager and representatives of the Staff Association and Workers' Union has been constituted. In 1962 there were 120 daily-rated workers and 47 staff members

including machine operators. The total wage bill of the Company comes to about Rs. 1.5 lakhs per year.

Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara

The Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara, was established in 1940 for the production of Crockery, Stoneware Pipes and Refractories in the factory section and refining of China clay in the mining side. The first Ceramic Expert, Sardar Dogar Singh, who was got down for the purpose from the Benares Hindu University, did pioneering work in the establishment of this first factory in Kundara at a place called Kanjiracode on the banks of the Ashtamudi (Kanjiracode) lake. The event invited the attention of entrepreneurs, and other industries like the Aluminium Industries Ltd., Travancore Chemicals Ltd., Lakshmi Starch Factory Ltd., Travancore Enamels Ltd., Pierce Leslie & Co., Ltd,. Electrical and Allied Industries Ltd., etc., came to be established in Kundara and converted the place into an industrial town.

However, the Ceramic factory worked at a loss except during World War II. The Crockery Wares did not receive the recognition they deserved and much of the stock, therefore, accumulated. It was therefore decided to instal an Electrical Tunnel Kiln for firing Crockery for improving its quality and thereby discontinue the age old down-draught country kiln firing. Government, therefore, sanctioned the Scheme for the import of a Brown Boveri's Tunnel Kiln from Switzerland. It was finally decided to erect this kiln near the Kundara Power House and in close proximity to the Railway Station for the manufacture of White Wares in Porcelain as a separate Unit. This Unit is now called the 'Kerala Government Ceramics', the details of which are given in a separate section.

The chief raw material for the Pottery industry is China clay, and this is readily available at Kundara. Firewood necessary for the furnaces is available from the Forest Coupes of the District. Electric energy is easily available from the Kundara Sub Station of the State Electricity Board. Cheap and intelligent labour is also available at Kunadra. In 1961-62 the factory produced 3,500 tons of goods, and what was once a losing concern came to work on profit. The following is a statement of the volume and value of the products of this factory for the period 1959-62.

Description of the products	Quantity produced			Value based on average or estimated price		
	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
				Rs	Rs	Rs
1. China Clay Tonnes	3,329	3,400	3,381	4,32,811	4,56,090	4,73,350
2. Fire bricks Nos.	9,710	1,22,675	1,84,489	6,680	77,456	79,598
3. Fire cement Tonnes	31	111	50	7,734	10,036	4,763
4. Stoneware Pipes	34,526	22,150	46,196	77,691	51,202	1,00,933

About 300 persons were employed in the factory in 1961-62 and the total amount paid by way of wages and other benefits came to Rs. 3.60 lakhs.

Kerala Government Ceramics, Kundara

As stated earlier, the Kerala Government Ceramics was commissioned in 1957 as an expansion scheme of the Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara. It is engaged in the production of superior varieties of porcelain crockery and Low Tension (L.T.) Electrical Insulators. A state owned concern where the Government has invested about. Rs. 37 lakhs, its rated capacity is about 400 tea sets or its equivalent porcelain pieces a day. The number of workers employed in July 1962 was 275 and they got about Rs. 3.5 lakhs annually as wages etc. The factory is equipped with the latest plant and machinery including an electrical double tunnel kiln and has been described as the best equipped ceramic factory in India. Of the raw material for this industry China clay is obtained locally while Quartz, Felspar and Gypsum are obtained from Tiruchirapally in Madras State. The products of this concern valued at about Rs. 12 lakhs per annum are sold both inside and outside the State.

Electrical and Allied Industries, Kundara

This concern was started in 1946 as a Public Limited Company under the Managing Agency of Messrs. Allied Engineers Ltd., Trivandrum. The main items of production were, Electrical Wiring Accessories, Railway Equipments like junction boxes, Plastic Mouldings and Ferrous and Non-ferrous castings. From the very inception, the Company suffered heavy loss every year, which ultimately resulted in its closure in 1952, causing unemployment to 196 persons including 44 monthly paid staff. The State Government decided to take over the Management of the factory from March, 1955 and

to run it with Government funds by entrusting the Management to a Board of Management with the Finance Secretary to Government, as its Chairman.[1] The main consideration for taking over the Management was to relieve the employees from prolonged unemployment. The factory thus continues to work under Government Management.

In 1960, Government appointed a Committee to value the assets of the Company with a view to taking over the factory as a State Owned Concern. The Committee submitted their valuation report to Government on March 31, 1960 and Government issued orders sanctioning purchase of the assets. The details of the capital structure of the Company are as follows:

Authorised Capital :		
1,00,000—41/2% tax free cumulative preference shares of Rs 10	Rs.	10,00,000.00
20,00,000—Equity shares of Rs 10	Rs.	20,00,000.00
	Rs.	30,00,000 00
Subscribed Capital :		
44,860—41/2% tax free cumulative preference shares of Rs 10	Rs	4,48,600.00
91,715—Equity shares of Rs 10	Rs	9,17,150.00
	Rs.	13,65,750.00
Add—Forefeited shares (amount paid up)		
Preference shares		475.00
Equity shares		44,775.00
	Rs.	14,11,000.00
Government's share in the Capital .		
5,000—41/2% cumulative preference shares of Rs 10		50,000.00
5,000—Equity shares of Rs 10		50,000 00
	Rs.	1,00,000.00
Other Financial Commitments of the Government:		
(1) Loan given to the Company prior to taking over the Management		20,000 00
(2) Guarantees given to the State Bank of Travancore, for repayment of Principal, interest and other charges down to the date of payment of the cash Credit a/c of the Company with the Bank (balance as on 31-1-1962) (The Principal amount of the loan was Rs. 2,50,000. The guarantee was given at the time of taking over management to get the key of the factory kept by the bank)	Rs	3,05,783.35
(3) Loan given to the Government Board of Management from 1955 till date	Rs.	7,70,000.00

1 Vide G.O. No. G.P. 1-2-16164|54|DD|14-3-1955.

On re-opening the factory under Government Management the entire production programme was revised. The main items of production at present are structural Steel Fabrications like Trusses, Tipping Waggons and Transmission Line Towers, Ferrous and non-ferrous Castings, Double Pole and Triple Pole Switches ranging from 15-amps to 100-amps, Fuse Units, Cut-outs and other Electrical Wiring Accessories like Switches, Ceiling Roses, Plugs etc., Electrical Line Hardware like Clamps, Stay tighteners, Stay rods, Stay Plates, Cross arm Street light pipe fittings etc. compression moulded Bakelite items like House Service meter Terminal Blocks, Telephone parts containers etc., Machine spare parts and other repair works.

The main customers are the Kerala State Electricity Board for Electrical Hardware items, Fuse units and Cut-outs and Public Health Engineering Department for Ferrous castings. The Electricity Boards of other States are also the customers for Fuse Units and Cut-outs. The United Electrical Industries Ltd., Quilon, Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore, and Radio and Electrical Manufacturing Co., Bangalore, are the main customers for compression moulded bakelite items. The Aluminium Industries Ltd., Kundara are also patronising the concern by placing their valuable orders for machine parts, repairs etc. Electrical Wiring Accessories are mainly sold to dealers against orders booked through Agents. Selling Agents have been appointed for Kerala State, Madras, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Iron and Steel, Pig-Iron, Brass rods and Plates, Zinc, Aluminium, Phynol formal de-hyde moulding powder and porcelain are the main raw materials. All the raw materials are obtained from indigenous sources. Aluminium scrap is obtained from Aluminium Industries and Porcelain from Kerala Government Ceramics.

Punalur Papar Mills

Located at Nedumkayam, Punalur, on the banks of the Kallada River, at a distance of 1½ miles from Punalur Railway Station, the Punalur Paper Mills, established in 1888 is one of the oldest paper producing units in Asia. It was built by the Travancore Paper Mills Co., Ltd., one of the pioneers of the Paper industry in India, but as a result of unsuccessful trading and financial losses the Mill remained more or less

idle until 1918 when owing to a shortage of paper in the country caused by the First World War, it was able to resume operation on a limited scale under the name of "Meenakshi Paper Mills Co." It was a partnership concern. The partners subsequently got into financial difficulties and they found it impossible to run the Paper Mills without adequate working capital. In 1931 they decided to convert the concern into a Public Limited Company and the Meenakshi Paper Mills Co., was succeeded by the present Punalur Paper Mills Ltd., a company registered under the Travancore Companies Regulation of 1092 (1916) with Messrs. A.V.N. & Co., (Proprietors of the firm of Messrs. Meenakshi Paper Mills Co., who constituted themselves under this name) as Managing Agents. Owing to lack of finance, Messrs. A.V.M. & Co., sold their Managing Agency rights to the firm of Messrs. A. & F. Harvey on August 5, 1937. The firm of Messrs. A. & F. Harvey was converted into a Limited Company on April 16, 1945 and Messrs. A. & F. Harvey Ltd., took over all the rights and liabilities of the firm, inclusive of the Managing Agency rights of Punalur Paper Mills Ltd.

Shortly after the concern was taken over by Harveys in 1937, an extensive programme of rehabilitation and replacement of Plant, Machinery and Building, which were in a dilapidated condition, was launched. Additional equipment and machinery were installed including new Water Turbine of the latest type, a special water filtration system, steam boilers and digesters, automatic paper cutter, pulp cleaning plant, a third paper machine imported from Sweden and a soda recovery plant. These contributed to increase in production and improvement in the quality of the products. From a production of 689 tons in 1938 the Mills had reached a production of 7,395 tons (7,513 metric tonnes) during 1960. Further renovation is now in progress and an order has been placed with Indigenous Paper Machinery Manufacturers for a complete new Wet end and Pre-dryers and other ancillary machines. It is expected that the renovated machine will go into production by the middle of 1963 and thereafter the production capacity of the Mills will increase.

The principal raw material is Etta Reed, a species of bamboo (*Ochladra Travancorica* and *Ochlandra Rheedii*). The reeds are collected from the Kerala Government Forests under a long term agreement on payment of stipulated seigniorage and the main collecting areas are situated 30|120 miles from

the Mills. After cutting and collecting the reeds are transported by lorries to the Mills. Subsidiary raw materials such as rags, waste paper, caustic soda, rosin, China clay etc. are mainly obtained from indigenous sources while wood pulp is imported from abroad and a part of the requirements of waste paper is imported from Ceylon. The principal varieties of paper manufactured are glazed and unglazed, brown and kraft, match, poster and manilla, creamlaid, white printing, unbleached etc. The annual production capacity of the Mill is at present 7,500 tonnes, but with the renovated machine going into production in 1963, it will increase to 10,500 tonnes per annum.

The company has an authorised capital of Rs. 30 lakhs of which the Government's share amounts to Rs. 3.14 lakhs. The following statistics will be of interest to the readers.

		Year ended 30-6-1960	*Year ended* 30-6-1961	*Year ended* 30-6-1962
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Production	96,36,191	93,51,675	96,34,827
2.	Sales	1,01,11,775	86,73,201	1,00,45,3 10
3.	Profit (net)	1,89,897	3,15,619	3,85,397
4.	No. of workers on rolls	1,103	1,335	1,090

United Electrical Industries, Pallimukku, Quilon

Incorporated in 1950 with an authorised capital of Rs. 25 lakhs, the United Electrical Industries commenced production in October, 1951. The company was sponsored by the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin Government. The paid-up capital of the Company is Rs. 13,90,010 of which the Government's share is Rs. 77,500. The company is located at Pallimukku, Quilon, two miles from the Quilon Railway Station, on the Quilon-Trivandrum main road. It is situated on a 6 acre plot and meter assembling is carried on in a pucca building of size 120′ x 120′. It is shortly proposed to expand the floor space by another 240′ x 120′.

This unit is the first to produce Electricity House Service Meters in India. The main raw materials required by the industry are steel, brass and copper. The company started production, with the assembling of meters from component parts imported from U.K. Gradually it embarked on a progressive manufacture of component parts in India mainly to cut down foreign exchange and attain self-sufficiency. A phased programme for the manufacture of single phase meters and assembling of Poly phase meters has been

drawn up. 65% of the component parts are manufactured within India and the rest imported. By 1960 the imported components were reduced by another 15% to 20%. Negotiations are under way with the technical collaborators of this unit, M|s. Aron Electricity Meters Ltd., London, for the final manufacture of Polyphase meters in the Quilon Unit itself.

The meters turned out of this enterprise bear the trade mark of "Aron". They are mainly purchased by the various State Electricity Boards and the Government of India. The Company has a very efficient system of marketing through the medium of reputed and well experienced selling agents. 250 persons work here though there is considerable scope for expansion of employment possibilities.

Aluminium Industries Ltd., Kundara

A pioneering as well as leading unit engaged in the manufacture of aluminium conductor and cable industry, the Aluminium Industries Ltd., Kundara popularly known as ALIND, started operation in 1946. The availability of sufficient quantity of electric power, backwater transport facilities, nearness to the railway station and plentiful supply of skilled labour were the factors that induced the location of this factory in Kundara. The Company's Managing Agents are Messrs. Seshasayee Bros. (Travancore) Private Ltd. The total capital invested is Rs. 270 lakhs of which the share of the fixed capital is Rs. 87 lakhs, the rest being working capital. Providing employment to 700 workers, the annual wage bill of this establishment comes approximately to Rs. 23 lakhs. The company is equipped with the latest type of Rod Mill Machinery, Wire Drawing and Stranding machinery, Extruders, Braiders, Patenting, Pickling and Galvanising machines. 34 lakhs K.W.H. of electric power is consumed annually. The table given below depicts the principal raw materials used during an year and their quantity and value.

Description of the material	*Source of supply of raw materials*	*Quantity and value of raw materials from Indian markets*	*Quantity and value of raw materials from foreign markets (Tons)*	*Value (Rs)*
1. Aluminium rods	U. K., U. S. A., Canada etc.	Nil	2,600	194 lakhs
2. Steel wire	U. S. A., Japan	Nil	2,400	31 "
3. Aluminium Ingots	Nil	600 tons at Rs. 25 lakhs	Nil	Nil
4. Aluminium Ingots	U. S. A., Canada, etc.	Nil	1,800	76 lakhs

A brief description of the significant features of the manufacturing process will be of some interest to the readers. 3|8" Aluminium rods are drawn into different sizes with the help of the wire drawing machines and stranded. For insulated wires these are given a covering of Polyethylene or P.V.C. in a high-speed extruder. In the Rod Rolling Mill Aluminium ingots are melted and rolled into 3|8" rods. High carbon steel rods are patented and pickled and drawn into wires and then are galvanised to be used as core wire for A.C.R.

The principal products manufactured together with their quantity and value for the period 1960-61 are given below.

Sl. No.	*Description of product*	*Output*	*Value*
1	Bare conductors 60-61 ACSR & AAC	7,490 tons	Rs. 303 lakhs
2	Covered Aluminium conductors	10 million core yards	Rs. 49 lakhs
3	Conductor Accessories	Nil	Rs. 15 lakhs

The marketing of the products of the Company is done through selling agents and dealers. Bare conductors and accessories are sold to the Electricity Boards of the various State Governments. Covered conductors are sold to the public as well as to the State Governments. In the last ten years Alind has supplied over 200,000 miles of ACSR and all aluminium conductors of the various power projects in the country-Bhakra Nangal, Bhilai, Chambal, Kundah, Periyar and Poringalkuthu. Now the company is in a position to roll ⅜" aluminium rods from ingots and manufacture H.T.G. steel wire and consequently, the reliance on imported raw materials is also diminishing.

The expansion programme of the Alind is impressive. The Alind's covered conductor plant at Kundara was the first to be set up in India for the manufacture of covered (insulated) aluminium conductors for out-door weather proof applications and for in-door wiring. The construction of a factory for the manufacture of high tensile galvanized steel wire is complete. The machinery has been installed with Japanese collaboration. The company has also been granted a licence for the manufacture of Solidal (a special type of low voltage aluminium) underground cable, the work on which is in progress.

Lakshmi Starch Factory, Kundara

Established in 1946 this factory produces sizing materials including starch. The availability of the principal raw material, viz., tapioca roots, in and around Kundara, prompted

its location here. Relevant statistics concerning the working of this unit are given below:

Capital invested:	
Fixed capital. (land, buildings, plant, machinery, etc.)	Rs. 22.8 lakhs
Working capital. (raw materials, finished products, cash, etc).	Rs. 22.23 lakhs
Number employed:	
Workers	162+45 (Contractors' gang)
Others	56
Wages and other benefits paid per year:	
Workers	Rs. 1,96,059.96
Other than workers	Rs. 1,65,110.48
	Rs. 3,61,170.44

The factory is equipped with the latest types of Washer-Peeler-Crusher, Sieves Separators-Purifiers-Centrifugals-Dryer and Boiler. The annual consumption of electricity amounts to 1,073,366 KWH valued Rs. 78,708.49. In addition 777 tonnes of coal and 210 tonnes of fuel oil costing approximately Rs. 46,600 are also consumed.

In this factory the raw tapioca tubers and tapioca dried chips are washed, peeled, crushed, extracted, sieved, purified, dried and then the starch is packed into bags. The products of the factory are the following:—Tapioca starch, Modified starch, White and Yellow Dextrines and British Gum; Tapioca flour, Manioc meal, Core binder, etc. They are sold through a firm of selling agents who have offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Ahamadabad, Madras and Coimbatore.

Harrison & Crosfield Ltd., Engineering Department, Quilon

This is one of the biggest Engineering concerns in Kerala and was started in 1912. The Engineering Department has a working capital of Rs. 35 lakhs. Nearly 400 people are employed in this Department. The annual wage bill amounts to Rs. 9,50,000.

The factory is equipped with punching and shearing machines, cold saws, pneumatic hammers, welding sets, riveting machines, lathes and all other modern machines required for a structural workshop and a machine shop. There is a 50 H.P. Oil Engine for power generation, but the main source of supply of power is from the Kerala State Electricity Board.

The following table describes the principal raw materials used, their sources of supply, value, etc.

Raw Material	*Source of Supply*	*Quantity and value* 1961- *and* 1962
Steel	Indian Rolling Mills	5600 Tons Rs. 36,00,000
Coal & Coke	Indian Collieries	100 Tons Rs. 8,000
Fuel & Oils	Shell Refineries	50,000 litres Rs. 35,000

Fabrication of steelwork comprising factory structures, crane girders, steel chimneys, coal bunkers, storage tanks, bridge girders, transmission line towers, sub-station structures etc., is the main activity. Apart from this, there are a foundry and well equipped machine shop and electrical shop capable of undertaking all types of repair works and electrical contracting.

During the three years ending with 31st December 1962, 8830 tons of steel work valued at approximately Rs. 106 lakhs, was fabricated against orders from customers in Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Bombay, Bengal and Rajasthan States.

Cashew Industry

Quilon is the most important centre of the cashew industry in Kerala and in the whole of India. Except 12 factories in Mysore and a few in Madras State, the bulk of the cashew industry in the country is located in Kerala where there are about 180 factories most of which are situated at places within a radius of about 25 miles of the Quilon town. *The Report on the Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala* (1960-61) attributes the heavy centralisation of cashew factories around Quilon to "the external economics of the development of skill in the region'. To quote the Report in detail, "In view of the fact that this industry is neither strongly raw material nor market-oriented, the main factor responsible for a high degree of localisation seems to be the element of skill required. Though apparently a minor operation, de-shelling and peeling of cashewnuts without breaking them require a high degree of practice and patient handling. Women are particularly suitable for such operations, and that is why about 90 per cent of workers in the industry are females. These skills have

grown in and around Quilon over the past few decades and have contributed to the growth of the industry in this area".[1] It may also be mentioned that setting up a cashew factory requires comparatively very little capital, and this has always encouraged several small entrepreneurs of the area to start new cashew factories taking advantage of the availability of skilled labour in and around Quilon. Within the past four decades the cashew industry has assumed national importance as it plays a vital role in earning foreign exchange for the country. The cashew dealers mainly seek foreign markets. India now exports roughly 40,000 tons of cashew kernels fetching foreign exchange worth over Rs. 18 crores.

Although cashew is grown widely in the State the total internal production of raw nuts is not sufficient to feed the processing factories up to even 50% of their capacity. In fact, the major portion of raw nuts required is imported. Figures for 1961 show that while 65,000 tons of raw cashew-nuts were procured from here, imports from East Africa accounted for 1,27,000 tons. East African supply and our domestic grown nuts are in the proportion 2: 1. During the last ten years imports from East Africa have increased by 150%, but the local production has been almost steady during that period.

The extraction of cashew kernel is done through a special and careful processing. Roasting, shelling, peeling and grading are the various processes involved in the production of kernels. The cashew kernels are rich in protein, minerals, phospherous, calcium and vitamins A and B. Compared to most other edible nuts, its fats content is less. The United States of America consumes about 60% of India's exports of cashew kernels. Exports to U.S.A. in 1961 amounted to 11.24 lakh cases of 50 pounds each. Other important markets are U.K., Germany, Canada, Australia. The U.S.S.R. is the next big buyer after U.S.A. Japan, Hongkong, Persian Gulf Ports and some other centres are purchasing kernels in small quantities. The industry is now producing over 20 lakhs cases of kernels annually. The following figures of imports and exports will show the growth of the industry during the last quarter of a century.

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1 *Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala N.C.A.E.R.*, p. 169.

Year	Imports		Exports	
	In thousand tons	Value in lakhs Rs	In thousand tons	Value in lakhs Rs
1937/39 Avge	..	..	13.12	128.50
1945/46	16.16	54.67	NA	NA
1946/47	31.05	120.63	15.17	556.10
1947/48	34.60	118.79	16.64	413.20
1948/49	42.83	153.02	18.29	492.50
1949/50	53.35	215.98	18.97	560.80
1950-51	53.96	284.56	25.39	855.10
1951/52	42.35	327.60	21.26	903.18
1952/53	82.00	NA	27.90	1297.74
1953/54	66.10	NA	26.63	1099.06
1954/55	55.02	316.47	34.01	1069.68
1955/56	69.40	372.28	30.86	1292.46
1957	95.68	730.11	34.03	1473.06
1958	120.32	747.03	39.05	1547.02
1959	91.76	606.90	37.57	1518.26
1960	99.42	821.46	38.81	1846.61

(NA—Not available)

There is an Export Promotion Council for cashew with headquarters at Cochin in order to attend to the propaganda work in overseas markets. The principal ports of shipments of cashew from India are Cochin, Mangalore and Quilon although small quantities are also being shipped from Calicut, Bombay and East Coast ports.

A detailed country-wise statement of exports of cashew kernels from India for each of the four years from 1957-60 is given at Appendix I. Since July 1961 there has been a steep fall in prices of kernels in the world market. Not only more exports, but better price levels are needed to improve the position. Efforts are made to step up internal consumption in India with a view to absorbing internal surplus production and thus protecting the industry from the evil effects of violent fluctuations in world markets. At present internal consumption is only 2 per cent of the total production.

Cashew shell liquid which is a by-product of the industry is also an important item of export. A phenolic oil with high iodine value, it is used in various compounds in industrial applications. At present cashew shell liquid is mainly exported as raw material to U.S.A., U.K., Japan and other countries. Total export of cashew shell liquid during 1959, 1960 and January-May 1961 came to 50,68,904, 61,51,738 and 19,87,504 Kgs. respectively.

When the cashew industry was originally started about the year 1925, only very few persons were employed in it. Now it employs about 100,000 workers directly and in ancillary industries such as Tin Factories, Saw Mills, Transport, etc. The labour employed directly in the cashew industry enjoys the benefits of the various labour welfare laws such as the Factories Act, (1948) Maternity Benefit Act, (1957) and Employees' State Insurance Act (1948). Minimum wages were introduced in the industry in 1958 and the rates were raised in 1960. The benefits of the Employees' Provident Fund Act have been extended to this industry with effect from October, 1962. Though the cashew factories employ a large number of workers, they do not provide continuous employment throughout the year. The factories are often closed down owing to insufficiency of raw cashew nuts. Being an industry which depends on foreign countries for the bulk of its raw materials as well as markets it has necessarily to fear insecurity. In spite of this precarious position regarding the availability of raw materials and the nature of markets, the cashew industry continues to be the backbone of the economy of the Quilon District.

Tile industry

Quilon is also an important centre of the tile industry. The primary factors that have influenced the location of tile factories in this area are the availability of clay and fire-wood, the basic raw materials, and the abundance of transport facilities. Moreover labour supply is also not a serious problem in Quilon, as elsewhere in Kerala. The Ithikara, Kallada and Karunagapally river beds lying within fifteen to thirty Kilometers from Quilon are a perennial source of clay. From these places clay is moved to Quilon in country boats through backwaters and canals. Firewood comes in lorries from the forests situated in the eastern parts of the State. Cashew shell which can supplement firewood is available in plenty from the cashew factories clustering around Quilon. Efficient transport facilities like railways, roadways and waterways are at hand to carry the tiles to various markets within and without the State. Hydro-electric power also is not lacking. It is therefore only natural that there are in Quilon a large number of tile factories, big and small, old and new.

The first tile factory at Quilon was established by Mr. Cameron, an Englishman in the year 1880, not long after the first one in India was founded at Mangalore in 1865 by the

Basel Mission which followed the French tile industry in Marseilles for the pattern of its tiles and methods of production. The next factory was founded by Mr. Chisholm who later on took Mr. Ewart, a planter, as his financing partner, and named the concern "Chisholm Ewart and Company". In 1910 Thomas Steaphen, a remarkably resourceful, astute and able industrialist of Travancore, established another tile factory at Eravipuram in the outskirts of Quilon town with the assistance of his enterprising partners, S. M. Atchutha Panicker and C. Cochera Panicker. All the above three gentlemen had the advantage of getting training under the European pioneers. The partnership concern which they started in 1910 was incorporated as a public limited company in 1915, under the name M|s. Thomas Steaphen & Co., Ltd., Quilon. In the meantime M|s. Harrison and Crosfield Ltd., an English company, came into the field by purchasing in 1912 the factory belonging to Mr. Cameron and in 1915 that of the Chisholm Ewart and Company and amalgamating them to form the present Quilon Tile Works, one of the biggest tile factories here. Thereafter many factories sprang up within and around Quilon Municipal limits and also in the outlying villages, Ithikara, Kallada and Karunagapally. The factories are now spreading to the vicinity of the sources of clay which is the essential raw material required for tiles.

The total capital outlay for these twenty-five or more tile factories is about fifty to sixty lakhs of rupees and the average annual output is about 300 lakhs of tiles, worth at the present rates of price, about four to five crores of rupees. Only two or three of these factories can be classified as large scale establishments; all the others are small scale industrial units. The industry provides employment to roughly two thousand men inside the factories in the actual process of tile manufacture, besides to an approximately equal number of persons in incidental processes, such as the supply of clay and firewood and transport of finished goods. For the purpose of fixing minimum wages the various categories of workmen in the industry are classified into five groups and the lowest of them in Quilon gets one rupee or more and the highest two rupees or more as basic wages per day. The rate of dearness allowance is uniform for all groups, but it varies with the cost of living indices of Quilon and the daily rate for September 1961 was Re. 1.55 per head. The workers get the benefits of the Employees' Provident Fund and the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

Canning industry

Kerala has at present an excellent cultivation under pineapples amounting to about 14,000 acres, though there were only a few hundred acres about a decade ago. The State supplies wagon loads of pineapples to the various parts of India, but a good portion of its crop is put in the tin and is made available to the country for the whole year. The canning factories in the State are located at Trichur, Punalur and Bharananganam.

The most important unit in the field in this District is the Midland Fruits and Vegetables Co., Ltd., Punalur. It has its headquarters in Delhi. The Punalur factory started functioning in 1960 with an investment of Rs. 2 lakhs. Being a seasonal industry it functions only in the months of April, May and June when pineapple is available in plenty. This factory is cultivating pineapple on a eight-acre plot and also running a Research Centre very near to it. The daily consumption of the factory is about 8,000 to 9,000 fruits. The pineapples are cut into pieces, processed and packed into small tins. More than hundred labourers are employed on daily wages.

The canning industry in Kerala has yet to modernise its plants. There is scope for installation of conveyors, improved curing, sizing machines, etc. The operations of exhausting, seaming, sterlisation can also be improved. Thus greater productivity will result and a consumer can get products still cheaper. The industry will also get a better foothold by larger sales and greater economy in production. At present the processors find it difficult to market all their pineapple juice, which is got after packing of slices has been done. Not sufficient publicity is given to market the juice which will be readily liked for its taste and nutritional value. Moreover, not all the juice is extracted and a portion of the valuable product goes waste.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Coir industry

The coir industry is the largest and most important cottage industry in Kerala. It has developed on account of the natural facilities available in the State. The raw material for the industry is husk which is a by-product of coconut and is available in plenty in the State. Another factor in the development of the industry is the cheap facilities available in the coastal

areas of the State for retting raw husks. The industry flourishes along the coastal areas providing employment to about five to six lakhs of people. It is important in the economy of the State both as an earner of foreign exchange and as a source of employment to a large section of the people. Kerala State accounts for over 95% of the production of coir and coir products in India and she is the largest exporter of coir products. During the last few years the increase in export of finished coir products has not been steady and this has seriously affected the industry. Taking into account the importance of the industry, the Coir Development Scheme was introduced during the First Five Year Plan period. The Scheme was continued during the Second and Third Five Year Plan periods. The poor conditions of the labourers engaged in the industry, the existence of the unnecessary middlemen, adulteration and similar factors which have hampered the progress of the industry had to be eliminated. With this end in view, Government have drawn up schemes to reorganise the industry on a co-operative basis and co-operatives of various types had been formed during the Plan periods. The framework of the industry at present is supported chiefly by the Primary Coir Yarn Societies and Central Coir Marketing Societies. The former are formed for retting and producing yarn. They undertake the marketing of the yarn through the Central Coir Marketing Societies which are organised for the purpose. Mats and Matting Societies, and Rope Manufacturing Societies are also formed for the development of the manufacturing side of the industry which requires special attention at present. Another scheme is the Bristle and Mattress Fibre Manufacturing Society which is intended to promote the manufacture of fibre from unretted husks. In addition to the above there are Coir Co-operative Unions and Husk Retting Unions formed by the primary societies.

There are a number of private concerns engaged in the trade, but they are essentially unorganised. Husk, the raw material of the industry, is a by-product of coconut. Due to lack of transport facilities, most of the husks available in the interior parts of the District could not be utilised for industrial purposes. It is the practice to ret the husks in the backwater areas near the coastal region of the District. The bacterial action of the brackish water makes the fibre soft and moisture resistant and gives an attractive colour. The raw husks are kept submerged in shallow water for a period ranging from 4 to 9 months and after having fully retted, the husks are beaten

up with wooden beaters to remove the pith. The fibre thus produced is cleaned and used for the spinning of coir yarn. The spinning is carried on by using spindle wheels in certain areas, while in other areas hand spinning prevails.

In Kerala there is a special office at the State level to attend to the development of the Coir industry. The Quilon District consists of the Paravur, Quilon, Perinad, Adur, Chavara and Karunagapally Inspectorates and a Coir Development Inspector is put in charge of each Inspectorate. There were 76 societies of various types in this District at the end of June 1961.

Sl. No.	Type of society	No. of societies	Member-ship	Paid up share capital (Rs.)	Remarks
1	Primary Coir Yarn Society	64	19,093	2,20,071.58	
2	*Thondu Vyavasaya* Co-operative Society	9	1,487	29,049.00	
3	Central Coir Marketing Society	..	..	..	
4	Mats & Matting Society	..	..	..	
	Rope Manufacturing Society	..	..	..	
6	Coir Co-operative Unions	3	16	..	Not working now
7	Bristle & Mattress Fibre Manufacturing Society	..	..	..	
8	Husk Retting Unions	..	..	..	
	Total	76	20,596	2,49,120.58	

Besides six Primary Coir Yarn Societies, one Husk Retting Union, one Central Coir Marketing Society and one Bristle and Mattress Fibre Manufacturing Society were registered in this District during 1961-62.

It is the policy of Government to bring the entire industry within the co-operative fold by a phased programme. Financial assistance by way of grants and loans is given to the societies for their better working. As in other Districts the Coir industry in Quilon is scattered and it is difficult to estimate the actual number of persons employed or the capital invested. With the further development of the industry more persons can be employed. The policy of organising the industry on co-operative lines has resulted in raising the living conditions of the workers mainly by eliminating the middle-men.

Handloom industry

Handloom industry is the means of livelihood for about 5,000 families in this District. About 9,000 looms are working

both inside and outside the co-operative fold. With the inception of the cess fund scheme for the development of this industry, there has been considerable improvement in the quality of production, marketing facilities, etc., which have considerably helped the growth of this industry in recent times. About 80% of the weavers are now within the Co-operative fold, and attempts are also being made to enlist the remaining persons in these co-operative institutions.

There is a heavy concentration of weavers in the areas of Mayyanad, Chathannur and Kottarakara. In June 1962 there were 62 Co-operative Societies in this District, the Taluk-wise distribution being as follows:

Statement of Handloom Co-operative Societies (1962)

Name of Taluk		*No. of Societies*	*Membership*	*share Capital (Rs.)*
Quilon	..	27	4,2000	1,40,000
Kottarakara	.	21	2,0000	75,000
Kunnathur	..	5	375	7,800
Pathanapuram	..	3	300	5,100
Pathanamthitta	.	3	270	4.000
Karunagapally	.	3	300	9,500

These Co-operative Societies work under the supervision and control of the Industries Department and also of the District Co-operative Bank, Quilon. Though during the initial period the working capital loans were advanced by Government, this is now being done by the District Co-operative Bank which is being financed by the Reserve Bank of India for the purpose. In July 1962 the total working capital invested including Government loans and Bank loans was above Rs. 11 lakhs. The average capital required for working one loom varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 depending on the counts of yarn used.

The ordinary loom is widely used by the weavers. Now, attachments like dobbies, take up motion attachment, etc., are also put into use in these looms to effect improvement in quality. The products of this industry are marketed mainly inside the State through hawkers and sales depots opened in important towns. A small portion of the clothes produced finds its market in other important cities of India. The average daily wages of men range from Rs. 1.50 to 3 while the women's earnings range from Rs. 1 to 2 a day. The children employed in the industry earn 35 to 50 nP. a day.

The following schemes are undertaken by Government for the improvement of the industry.

1. Issue of share capital loans to Weavers Society,
2. Issue of loans and grants for the working of dye houses and sales depots,
3. Issue of grants for the purchase of improved equipments like healds, reeds, dobbies, etc.,
4. Issue of rebate on the sale of handloom cloth with special rebate during festival seasons like Onam,
5. Purchase and distribution of samples,
6. Conversion of few handlooms into powerlooms for which share capital loan, working capital loan, loans for the purchase of looms, motors, etc., are given,
7. Celebration of the All India Handloom Week with a view to popularise the Handloom products.

Various other schemes like providing housing amenities for weavers, supply of push carts for sale of products, weaving grant for the appointment of paid Secretary for societies, etc., are proposed to be undertaken during the Third Five Year Plan period. It is estimated that all the looms in this area can be brought into the Co-operative fold by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period and all possible help, channelled through the Co-operative institutions for the all-round progress of this industry.

Timber industry

In Quilon District the timber industry is mainly concerned with the manufacture of packing cases for cashew kernels, tobacco, soaps, matches, etc., but it depends mostly on the cashew factories for their orders. Though there are 21 saw mills scattered over all parts of the District, most of them are centred in and around Quilon town and its neighbourhood. They employ about 650 persons. Extraction of timber and its conversion to several of its products on an industrial scale started only with the erection of saw mills. In the absence of saw mills the breaking-up and sizing of the logs was effected by hand sawing.

The first World War was a blessing in disguise to many Indian industries, particularly the timber industry. It created a demand for the soft woods of the Kerala forests. Large purchases of soft wood and semi-hard wood were made by the

Government of India for constructing temporary sheds for the army and packing cases for war materials. The demand for soft wood was a special feature of the period. With the starting of various industries after the War, the demand for soft wood was sustained and even expanded for the purpose of making packing cases for the transport of raw materials to the factories and finished products from the factories. To cope with the increased demand for cut timber for various purposes, many saw mills were started in different parts of Kerala from 1925 onwards. The second World War gave a further fillip to the industry. Between 1939 and 1945 there was demand for enormous quantities of timber for war purposes. Naturally the existing mills expanded their output and a large number of new mills came to be started in various parts of the country. In post-war days the demand for timber is being sustained as a result of programmes for rapid industrialisation of the country as envisaged in the Five Year Plans.

Match industry

The match is one of the commonest articles of daily consumption and has a special significance in the economy of the country. The match industry in Kerala comprises of two distinct groups of enterprise, viz., (1) Splints and veneers factories which turn out the basic ingredients of the match—the stick and box components and (2) the dipping factories which treat these ingredients chemically, assemble them and finish the product. Of these, the former form the major component of the match industry and supply the entire needs of dipping factories in the States of Kerala and Madras. This quasi-monopolistic position enjoyed by Kerala in the production of splints and veneers is due to the availability of soft timber which grows abundantly in her forests. The Quilon District is one of the regions of Kerala where the splints and veneers factories tend to agglomerate. The dipping industry in the State is still in its infancy. It is also concentrated to some extent in Quilon. Cheap transport of timber along waterways and facilities for quick despatch of finished products over rail account for this tendency to localization. In this District there are 14 splints and veneers factories employing 713 persons and 6 dipping factories employing 70 persons. They are located mainly in Quilon town, but there are factories also at Kottarakara, Kulathupuzha, Adur and Mynagapally. A typical splints and veneers factory is a small unit employing between 40 and 50 workers. Bigger factories employ above 200 persons.

That female labour accounts for 60% of the total labour is an interesting aspect of this industry. 45% of the entire labour force is used for tray setting of veneers and splints. A large majority of the labourers get wages ranging from 50 nP. to 87 nP. per day.

Oil Mills

The production of coconut oil from copra is concentrated in Quilon town and suburbs. There are several oil mills here. The major part of the industry falls within the sphere of Small Scale and Cottage Industry. The quality of oil depends on the quality of the copra used and hence great care is bestowed on its preparation for the mills. Copra is crushed both by village *Chakkus* or ghannies and power mills equipped with rotaries and or expellers. Rotary mills may be described as power driven '*chakkus*' with the difference that in the case of the rotary mills both the mortar and pestle revolve. In coconut producing areas these mills have largely displaced '*chakkus*' or 'ghannies'. Rotaries invariably work in pairs and their number in individual copra crushing establishments vary from one pair to several dozen pairs. The capacity of a rotary mill usually varies from about 250 Kg. to 325 Kg. of copra per day of 10 hours. About ¼ Kg. of gum acacia is added per maund (40 Kg.) of copra to bind the cake and facilitate extraction of oil.

Expellers are used only in larger mills. The number of expellers in individual mills vary from one to six. The extraction of oil in an expeller takes place within a steel case by means of a series of hardened steel worms, so arranged on a revolving shaft as to produce increasing pressure as the copra is carried from one end of the case to the other. The capacity of an ordinary sized expeller is usually about two to three tons of copra per day of 10 hours, but there are a few big expellers of larger capacity in some mills.

The yield of oil varies with the oil content of the copra and the efficiency of the method and machinery employed. The yield of oil varies from 62 to 63% when crushing is done in rotaries and from 63 to 65% in expellers. The Government of India have prescribed standard grade specifications for coconut oil in fair agreement with standards fixed in other countries. Coconut oil finds a ready use for several purposes, for example, (1) for edible purposes, (2) toilet and cosmetic purposes, (3) manufacture of soaps, (4) for synthetic rubber manufacture,

(5) in chemical warfare, (6) in the manufacture of hydraulic brake fluid for aeroplanes, (7) manufacture of synthetic resins, (8) manufacture of insecticides and germicides, etc., (9) manufacture of vulcanised rubber goods such as tyres, (10) manufacture of glycerine etc.[1]

Coconut oil cake or *poonac* is a residue left after extracting oil from copra. It is one of the important sources of vegetable proteins. The yield of cake may be reckoned to vary from 33 to 40% of the copra. Coconut oil cake is utilised mainly as cattle feed. It is also reported to be used for human consumption. It finds limited use as manure.

One of the major problems facing the oil mills is the difficulty in obtaining an adequate quantity of copra. They have to depend, considerably, on the imported copra. At the same time in spite of local shortage, copra is exported to the other States of India, particularly, Bombay as dealers in these places pay better than the local millers. As a consequence of this shortage only 30 per cent of local mills work all the year round. During the greater part of the year, there is a considerable excess capacity in the industry causing distress to oil millers.

Printing

The Minimum Wages Committee for Printing Presses (1958) reported that 76 Printing Presses functioned in the Quilon District. A considerable volume of the work of the industry is provided by newspapers and periodical publications for which there is a large reading public. But there are no large printing units of the size existing in the bigger cities like Bombay, Calcutta or Madras. Barring a few presses which employ 25 to 50 workers, an overwhelmingly large number of presses are units employing 1 to 10 workers. As the units become smaller and smaller especially in the rural areas, printing becomes a cottage industry. The large majority of workers are males, but women are also employed in the composing and binding sections.

Beedi manufacturing

In the Quilon District there are 7,000 persons engaged in beedi manufacture. One of the most un-organised industries

1 For a detailed account of Coconut Oil Industry and its importance please see *Coconut Palm—A Monograph* by Menon and Pandalai, pp. 319-25.

in the State, nothing reliable is known about its origin. It is common knowledge that this industry can be run with meagre capital. This explains the preponderance of small units which often consist of a single self-employed individual. The making of beedies is a very simple process which can be mastered in about 4 to 10 months. No machinery is required. The six stages in the manufacture of beedies are the following: (1) preparation and blending of tobacco, (2) cutting of wrapper leaves, (3) rolling of beedies and tying up, (4) closing the ends, (5) warming and (6) labelling and packing.

The raw materials used are processed tobacco and wrapper leaves. The more popular and widely used tobacco is obtained from Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is not, however, unusual to obtain inferior tobacco from places like Guntur and mix it with the former superior variety to bring down production costs. The leaves of "*diosporos melanoxylon*" are used for wrapping the tobacco. A serious evil in the beedi industry is the highly insanitary conditions of the work-places. The occupation of beedi rolling is carried on in all sorts of places, in large workshops housed in good buildings, small workshops, verandas of shops, small dingy rooms without windows, in temporary sheds, shades of trees, banks of tanks and canals, in short in all imaginable places. A good number of workers are doing their work inside the panshops on the sides of roads and streets. The Minimum Wages Committee hardly came across an ideal workshop in the whole State in point of cleanliness and neatness.

In the beedi industry there are no fixed hours of work. The Government have fixed the minimum wages in this industry at Rs. 1.87 per 1,000 beedies. Wages being paid on piece rate basis, the workers work according to their convenience and the employers are not worried as to when or how they work. It is quite common for the beedi workshops to be kept open from early morning to late in the night. In petty workshops it is not rare to find workers working up to 11 p.m. In brief the beedi workers work very long hours. On an average the workers work for 10 hours a day. Children are no exception to this. Irregularity of employment is however a peculiar feature of this industry. On an average a worker gets employed for about 20 days in a month. There are many who are even out of employment. The causes for irregularity of employment or under-employment are various. The most important of these is the inclemency of the weather. In rainy days tobacco

will not be fit to be rolled into beedies and work will be suspended. When stocks accumulate manufacturers are reluctant to continue production as beedies deteriorate and get spoiled if kept in store rooms for more than 3 months. So overstock leads to curtailment or complete stoppage of work. Further if the supply of raw materials, namely, tobacco and wrapper leaves runs out or is short the quantum of available work will disappear or shrink. The regularity of work in this industry is also affected by the difficulties of ensuring regular clearance of their stocks.

Other Small Scale Industries

Among the other smaller industrial units functioning in this District may be mentioned the Travancore Chemical Industries at Kundara, two factories manufacturing sewing thread bobbins for textile mills, one at Asramam, Quilon and the other at Punalur, 3 Pencil factories at Quilon and 15 Commercial Tin Fabricator factories which have sprung up as an ancillary to cashew industry. Eight soap manufacturing factories also function in this District.

Khadi and Village Industries

The development of Khadi and Village Industries is the concern of the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board. The most important centres of the Khadi industry in Quilon District are Elanthur and Omallur in Pathanamthitta taluk, Odanavattam and Mylom in Kottarakara taluk and Thevalakara and Karunagapally in Karunagapally taluk. The Khadi industry alone provides employment to more than 12,000 people. The most important village industries of the District are Village Oil, Gurkhansari, Village pottery, Non-edible Oil and Soap, Bee-keeping and Hand-pounding of paddy. There are more than 100 institutions engaged in the development of these industries and all of them are being aided by the Khadi and Village Industries Board. A statement showing the number of persons engaged in the Khadi and Village Industries in March 1963 is given below:

Employment in Khadi and Village Industries (1963)

Sl. No.	Name of industry	Full-time employees	Part-time employees	Casual employees
1	Khadi ..	11,996	935	160
2	Village oil ..	89	37	..
3	Gurkhansari ..	48	..	..
4	Village pottery ..	54	15	..
5	Non-edible oil and soap ..	4	6	..
6	Bee-keeping ..	19	135	..
7	Handpounding of paddy ..	562	291	..

The Khadi and Village Industries Board also carries on other important activities in this District. It is conducting a Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan at Chinnakada, Quilon where all varieties of Khadi and Khadi silk ready-made garments and handicraft products are being sold to the public. It also conducts a Cotton Go-down at Quilon. This is a Regional Go-down for stocking cotton for distribution among the various Khadi producing centres in Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey Districts. Moreover Gurkhansari Demonstration Centres are maintained by the Board at Konni and Ranni where improved methods of producing Gurkhansari from sugar cane are demonstrated to the cultivators. In addition there are Bee-keeping Sub-stations at Pathanapuram, Punalur and Konni which are run directly by the Board. In these Sub-stations hives are supplied to intending bee-keepers at subsidised rates. In the Model Apiary attached to the Sub-stations the process of extraction of honey on scientific lines is also being demonstrated.

HANDICRAFTS[1]

Wood carving

Kerala's wood carving has been famous from very ancient days. It was for long practised in connection with the construction of temples and in the construction of houses and other buildings. The large number of temples scattered throughout and the doors, windows and ceilings of most of the ancient *'Tarawads'* are illustrative of the high degree of skill with which this superb craft was practised. The main theme of carving in those days was the representation of Puranic scenes and figures from *Bhagavata*, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Images of human beings, animals, birds, trees and flowers were also executed with vigorous realism and in a boble style. The cars (*rathas*) used in certain ceremonies (*Terottam* as it is called) in some of the ancient temples like Suchindram bear testimony to the marvellous artistry of the craftsmen of Kerala. But, with the cessation of temple building activities in the State by the 18th century and urged by the necessities of the modern society, the ancient woodcraft of Kerala took a surprisingly new form. Decorative items took the place of Puranic illustrations and temple cars.

1 The material for this section is taken mainly from the *Report on Census of Handicrafts*, Kerala (1960) issued by the Department of Industries and Commerce.

Carved items like elephants, tigers, deers, etc., in different poses to suit as paper-weights, book-ends and lamp-stands became the creations of wood carvers. Decorative furniture like elephant-headed teapoy, stool and ash trays, models of animals, birds, etc., were also produced in large quantities to suit different tastes. This change in nature of the craft became a very effective means to make it a success commercially. Exquisite creations in Rosewood and Teakwood from Kerala have acquired wide reputation recently. Omallur in this District was a centre of the wood carving industry.

Lace and Embroidery

Quilon town and Pullichira are centres of the traditional embroidery and lace making industry. Chronologically, Syrian embroidery was the first to find its way into Kerala. Essentially an alien craft, this industry is believed to have been introduced sometime in the beginning of the Christian Era by the colony of Syrians who settled in this land. The present form of embroidery is however of recent origin, having been introduced by the London Mission Society sometime in the first quarter of the 19th century. Thereafter, the Christian Missionaries played a very vital role in popularising this cottage industry among the women-folk and according to it the position which it occupies today. The Dutch and Portuguese ladies who settled in the coastal parts of Anjengo, Quilon and Alleppey were much fond of pillow lace and they used to make them often. Whatever might have been their high traditions, the craft gradually deteriorated in design, stitch and material, so much so it became a class of its own and came to be known as 'Quilon lace'. The only points in its favour were that it was hand-made and cheap and gave occupation to several hundreds of poor girls. Nevertheless in some parts of the State and of this District it is even today an important home occupation of the ladies in leisure moments, but not on a commercial scale. With the starting of India's development plans many women's organisations have sprung up in almost all villages and towns. Lace and Embroidery work is one of their important activities. These associations engage instructors to teach the work to members and students.

Screwpine mat weaving

The weaving of coarse and fine mats and *'Thadukku'* or sitting mats out of screwpine leaves (*Pandanus tectorius*) is

one of the oldest cottage industries of Kerala. Almost all varieties of these mats were at one time indispensable to every household. Before the introduction of chairs, rugs, bags and mattresses, suitable substitutes made of screwpine leaves used to meet the local requirements and even today these articles are being used to some extent in Kerala. Nearly 78% of the 321 units engaged in this industry in the State are in the Karunagapally taluk of this District. The home of this craft is a village by name 'Tazhava' in the Karunagapally taluk. Thodiyur, Kulasekharapuram, Perinad, Oachira and Krishnapuram Panchayats in the same taluk are also centres of this industry. But the finest varieties of mats are made only in Thazhava. Screwpine mats are special products of Kerala offering comfort at low cost and one can hardly find any Malayalee home without at least one mat, coarse or fine.

The use of screwpine does not end in the manufacture of mats. Specially prepared fine mats lend themselves to embroidery and sewing. There are several fancy articles that are made of superfine mats, e.g., beautifully embroidered lunch sets, beach-hats, tea cosies, handbags, wall hangings, purses, belts and suit cases. In Quilon they are made in Thazhava and by a Co-operative Society at Vavakkavu in Oachira Block.

Straw and Bark work

A highly talented craftsman of Perinad in the District has been making wall hangings with images of natural scenery by pasting pieces of straw and bark of different wood. These wall hangings sometimes excel even paintings. The S.M.S.M. Institute, and the District Cottage Industries Co-operative Society at Trivandrum purchase these articles from the craftsman and place them for sale.

Quilon silver spoon making

This one-time famous craft known by the name of its home town is now almost languishing. The attractive silver spoons with quaint silver coin handles are now manufactured in bulk in two proprietary establishments (Jewellery shops) at Quilon. These spoons have markets only outside the State. The ancient glory of this craft has vanished and yet it has survived because of the reputation it earned in the past.

Other handicrafts

In addition to the handicrafts described earlier there are also some others like cane and rattan work, kora grass

weaving, bamboo work etc., which flourish in certain parts of the District. The table given at Appendix II gives details of the important handicraft centres in this District.

Industrial Estate

Till 1962 there was no Industrial Estate in Quilon District. It has been proposed to establish an Industrial Estate at Umayanallur during the Third Five Year Plan period. Steps are in progress for the acquisition of the site required for the same. The Estate, which is to be located on the 4th Milestone from Quilon on the Quilon-Trivandrum Highway, extends over 43 acres and a capital outlay of Rs. 15 lakhs has been provided for.

The main advantage of an Industrial Estate lies in the fact that it provides an integrated build-up framework for overhead facilities comprising buildngs, power and water connection, facilities for procurement of raw materials, suitable approach roads, common workshop and other service centres etc. The object of creating this integrated framework is to provide an incentive for attracting the Small Scale entrepreneur who lacks organisational capacity as well as the necessary finances and finds it difficult to start on his own.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Though industrially well advanced when compared to the other Districts of Kerala, there are still immense possibilities of the industrial development of Quilon. The Report of the A.I M.O. (All India Manufacturers Organisation) Industrial Delegation which visited Kerala at the invitation of the State Government in January 1962 as well as that of the Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala (1960-61) conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research throw light on the industrial potential and plans for future development of the District. The A.I.M.O. Delegation has suggested specific schemes for the development of the cashew industry in Quilon-Kundara region. It has recommended the establishment of a factory for canning cashewnut apples and their conversion to Vinegar, Jams, etc. as well as for making liquor, by the process of distillation. It has also suggested that a big size cashew shell oil plant for producing cashewnut shell oil and also providing various resins based on it be set up

in the Quilon area. A plant for fermenting tapioca starch to yield Butanol, Acetone and Hydrogen is also proposed to be set up in the Quilon-Kundara region. The Techno-Economic Survey referred to earlier undertook a more detailed investigation of the industrial potential of the District and has put forward a few specific proposals for the establishment of large scale and medium scale industries in Quilon. The Tables given at Appendix III give a summary statement of possible large scale and medium scale industries proposed for the Quilon District with such details as suggested capacity, investment, net value of out-put per year, employment potential, power requirement, location and reasons for suggesting the project. It may also be mentioned that a scheme for the processing of steel out of the ilmenite produced in the District is also under investigation.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS ORGANISATIONS

The labour force in Quilon is well organised in trade unions. According to the information furnished by the Registrar of Trade Unions the earliest trade union established in the District is the Travancore Mineral Workers' Union, Chavara. It was registered on *Medom* 10, 1113 (23rd April 1938) and is still on the register with a total membership of 3,984. As on 1st April 1961 there were 224 labour unions in this District with a total membership of 58,680. Of these the labour unions in the cashew industry alone accounted for 30,832 members. The unions were affiliated to all-India Labour Organisations such as the All India Trade Union Congress, the United Trade Union Congress, the Indian National Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha. An industry-wise break-up of the number and membership of these 222 trade unions is given in the Table at Appendix IV.

The most important employers organisations are the Kerala Cashew Manufacturers' Association, Quilon, the South India Cashewnut Manufacturers' Association, Quilon, the Oil Mill Owners' Association, Quilon, the Travancore Tile Manufacturers' Association, Quilon, the Saw Mill Owners' Association, Quilon and the Timber Merchants' Association, Quilon.

Welfare of Industrial labour

The general condition of industrial labour can be said to be satisfactory. The most important labour laws administered in the District as elsewhere in the State are: (1) the

Factories Act, 1948, (2) the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, (3) the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, (4) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (5) the Employment of Children Act, 1938, (6) the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, (7) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (8) the Indian Boilers' Act, 1923, (9) the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, (10) the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, (11) the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958, (12) the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, (13) the Travancore-Cochin Shops and Establishments Act, 1125 (1950), (14) the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act, 1957 and (15) the Kerala Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1958. Of the above Acts items 13, 14 and 15 are State Acts and all others Central Acts applicable to this State. In addition to the benefits which accrue to the labourers from the application of the above Acts a section of the labourers in this District is also benefited by the provisions of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952.

Minimum Wages

In a number of employments Government have introduced minimum wages after due enquiries. The minimum wages have thus been fixed in the employments in plantations, cashew, public motor transport, beedi and sugar manufacture, coir manufacture, oil milling, toddy tapping, rice and flour milling, road construction or building operations, stone breaking and stone crushing, tanneries and leather manufacture, employment under local bodies, agriculture, match, tile manufacture, timber, printing presses, shops and establishments, etc.

Industrial Relations

The Labour Department has followed a policy of encouraging settlement of industrial disputes by voluntary negotiations and conciliation, minimising thereby the references of disputes for compulsory adjudication. References to arbitration and mediation of disputes by agreement of parties are also resorted to with a view to avoiding protracted litigation before Tribunals. There are two tiers in the machinery set up for the settlement of disputes which may be broadly classified as statutory and non-statutory. The Conciliation Officers appointed under the Industrial Disputes Act constitute the statutory machinery and the Industrial Relations Committees

formed for important industries constitute the non-statutory bodies. The Officers of the Labour Department from the Labour Commissioner to the Deputy Labour Officers function as Conciliation Officers under the Industrial Disputes Act. The Assistant Labour Officers and Labour Assistants also mediate and settle disputes of a minor character. High level conferences are convened by the Labour Commissioner and the Deputy Labour Commissioner to explore the possibilities of settling disputes which cannot be settled at the district level. If no settlement is reached at such conferences too, summit conferences are held in the presence of the Minister for Labour. It is only as a last resort that a dispute is referred to for adjudication.

Labour Court, Quilon

The Labour Court, Quilon which was set up in 1957 disposes of industrial disputes and petitions filed under the Industrial Disputes Act. Though the Court started functioning for the adjudication of industrial disputes alone additional powers have subsequently been conferred on it as Special First Class Magistrate and authority under various labour statutes such as Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Employees State Insurance Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, etc. Awards passed by the Court are published regularly in the Kerala Government Gazette. A statement of cases pending, received, disposed of etc. by the Labour Court, Quilon during 1959-61 is given on the next page.

Industrial Relations Committees

Apart from the functioning of the conciliation and adjudication machinery described above Government have constituted Tripartite Industrial Relations Committees for the settlement of industry-wise problems relating to labour-management relations. Such Committees have been constituted in respect of tiles, engineering, coir, cashew, timber, textiles, oil milling, toddy tapping and beedi industries. Two Industrial Relations Committees have been formed in the Indo-Norwegian Project with a view to promoting industrial peace and establishing cordial relations between employers and employees in the fishing industry. A Unified Production Committee is functioning in the Travancore Plywood Industries, Punalur. Management Councils have been formed in Government owned

Statement of cases pending, received, disposed of etc. in the Labour Court, Quilon during 1959-61.

	Details of cases		Balance of cases carried forward from the previous year			No. of cases received during the year			No. of cases disposed of during the year			No. of pending cases		
			1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
1	Industrial Disputes	..	55	60	52	95	66	60	90	74	51	60	52	61
2	Petitions under Section 33(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act	..	12	8	15	12	20	11	16	13	25	8	15	1
3	Cases under Minimum Wages Act	..	..	3	2	4	1	9	1	2	2	3	2	9
4	Employees Insurance cases	..	3	3	8	6	18	1	6	13	6	3	8	3
5	Cases under the Payment of Wages Act	..	..	13	9	20	9	7	7	13	9	13	10	7
6	Criminal cases (Prosecution cases)	..	6	10	10	33	34	75	29	34	61	10	61	24

industrial concerns like the Kerala Government Ceramics, Kundara, Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara and the Travancore Plywood Industries, Punalur in the interests of healthy relations between management and workers. In view of such measures adopted by the Government employer-employee relations in the District have been on the whole cordial. Nevertheless during the period 1956-61, 2,852 industrial disputes arose. Out of this 2,730 were peacefully settled. The number of lock-outs and strikes during this period were 11 and 112 respectively. As a result of these strikes and lock-outs 342,060 man days were lost.

Laws relating to Labour Welfare

Various measures have been adopted to ensure the welfare of industrial labour. Factories employing more than 500 workers have appointed their own Welfare Officers as per the provisions of the Factories Act. Residential workers in the plantations are provided with housing facilities under the Plantation Labour Act. Medical and educational benefits are also provided to the workers by the management of plantations. A detailed analysis of the various labour welfare measures can be had from the section on Labour Welfare in Chapter XVII.

APPENDIX I

Exports of cashew kernels from India (Quantity in cwts)
(1957-60)

Countries		1957	1958	1959	1960
Aden	..	90	56	71	73
Afghanistan	..	..	..	45	..
Australia	..	14,735	12,714	11,655	21,432
Bahrein Is.	..	528	647	376	776
Belgium	..	852	2,578	1,856	1.572
Belgian Congo	..	1	1	..	..
Br. Guiana	..	..	..	..	6
Burma	..	67	..	..	1
China	..	67	..	..	9
Czechoslovakia	..	2	..	..	108
Canada	..	26,757	25,547	24,856	27,639
Ceylon	..	178	152	80	185
Cyprus	..	..	..	..	4
Denmark	..	4	..	..	40
Ethiopia	..	2	2	..	2
Finland	..	..	..	..	9
France	..	192	71	411	1,696
Fiji Is.	..	3	7	..	13
Germany East	..	7,734	979	13,790	13,235
Germany West	.	10,419	11,652	22,435	18,565
Ghana	..	..	5	1	..
Gibralter	..	..	..	..	Negligible
Hongkong	..	3,933	4,518	4,101	7,121
Iran	..		1,205	4,249	3,509
Iraq	..	78	33	744	248
Italy	..	234	2,286	1,207	1,014
Japan	..	..	..	2,360	2,961
Jordan	..	..	..	..	1
Irish Republic	..	504	..	..	60
Kenya	..	..	..	1	..
Kuwait	..	299	539	487	602
Lebanon	..	..	..	202	241
Maltagozo	..	..	2	..	2
Malaya	..	662	1,016	833	908
Mexico	..	455	681	448	223
Muzambique	..	1	2	..	..
Muscat	..	..	..	5	4
Netherlands	..	2,477	7,004	4,643	6,181
Nigeria	..	..	4	..	..
New Zealand	..	2,411	2,193	1,511	3,189
Nyasaland	..	1	..	4	1

APPENDIX I—(*Contd*)

Countries		1957	1958	1959	1960
Norway	..	111	302	202	111
Pakistan	..	..	..	1	4
Peru	..	20	20	..	..
Rhodesia S.	..	..	2	..	..
Rhodesia N.	..	..	..	1	..
Saudi Arabia	..	41	52	375	68
Seychelles	..	..	3	3	1
Sweden	..	2,435	3,808	3,919	3,179
Switzerland	.	831	783	441	202
Singapore	.	1,339	1,473	1,528	1,401
Sudan	..	4	..	4	2
Syria	..	..	..	2	..
Tanganyika	..	..	4	..	..
Trcl. Oman	..	6	20	55	37
U. K.	..	54,836	53,481	43,276	50,548
U. S. A.	..	5,06,900	5,46,729	5,17,466	4,99,248
U. S. S. R.	..	41,391	1,00,287	87,716	1,09,617
Yugoslavia	..	1	40	..	203
Zanzibar	..	..	..	..	1
Total		6,80,601	7,80,898	7,51,381	7,76,255

Total value in Rs.	1957	Rs. 14,73,05,790
	1958	Rs. 15,47,01,807
	1959	Rs. 15,18,25,743
	1960	Rs. 18,46,60,873

APPENDIX II

List of handicraft centres in Quilon District.

Sl. No.	Name of centre	Name of craft	Materials used	Particulars of products
1 2	Thazhava Oachira	Screwpine weaving, embroidery work on screwpine fine mats	Screwpine leaves	Fine mats of various sizes, coloured and plane with edges knotted by coloured leaf splits. Embroidery bags, hats, belts, purses, tea cosies, lunch sets, etc.
3	Kottarakara	Weaving (vegetation crafts)	Cane and rattan, bamboo and reed, palm leaf	Chairs, tables, teapoys, bags, baskets, etc. of cane mats and baskets of bamboo and reed, mats of palmyra leaf.
4	Quilon Town	Cane work, metal ware, handprinting, musical instruments, embroidery	Cane and rattan, copper and tin, clothes, dyes, wood and metal stamp, threads	Chairs, tables, teapoys, settees, bags, baskets, etc. lamps, varpu, household utensils, etc. Hand-printed pillow covers, bed spreads etc., and also embroidered items. Veena, harmonium.
5	Ranni	Cane work (weaving)	Cane and rattan	Chairs, tables, teapoys, bags, baskets, settees, etc.
6	Pullichira	Embroidery	Cotton, coloured threads	Embroidered pillow cases, cushion coveres, bed spreads, table clothes.
7	Eravipuram	Kora grass weaving	Kora grass	Mats.
8	Veliyam	Bamboo and reed	Bamboo and reed	Mats and baskets.
9	Punalur	Cane and rattan work	Cane, rattan, reed, bamboo	Chairs, tables, baskets of cane, mats and baskets of bamboo.
10	Kundara	Bamboo work	Bamboo	Mats and baskets.
11	Perinad	Straw and bark work	Straw, barks of wood etc.	Scenery by fixing pieces of straw and bark on card board.

APPENDIX III

Summary statement of possible large scale and medium scale industries in Quilon District 1960-61 to 1970-71)*

TABLE 'A'

	Name of industry	*Suggested capacity*	*Invest-ment (Rs. lakhs)*	*Net value of ou-put per year (Rs. lakhs)*	*Employment potential (No. of workers)*	*Power require-ment (KW)*	*Public or Private sertor*	*Location*	*Reason for suggesting the project and other remarks*
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	A. Agro-based industries.								
1	Cashew shell oil processing factory	2,500 tons of cashew oil per year	30	12	300	200	Public	Quilon	All cashew shell oil extract at present is being exported. It could be industrialy utilised within Kerala This in turn would give incentive for further recovery of oil.
	B. Forest based industries.								
2	Grease-proof paper	10 tons per day	50	20	150	700	Private	Punalur and nearby	
3	Expansion of Punalur Paper Mills	25 tons per day	100	46.87	280	1,000	Private with Government participation(20%)	Punalur	Based on Eta reeds. As Eta reeds have flowered, expansion will be possible after 2 to 3 years when fresh stocks come up.
4	Installation of Veneering Plant at Government Plywood Factory, Punalur	24,000 sq. ft. per day	5	3	50	100	Public	Punalur	Rosewood should be exported only in the form of veneers to earn more foreign exchange.

APPENDIX III (Contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
C. CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.								
5 Fermentation chemicals	A plant for fermenting 10 tons of starch per day to produce 1.5 tons of butanol 0.8 ton of acetone, 1.5 tons of Hydrogen per day	20	10	100	50	Public	Quilon	Availability of an excellent raw material in Tapioca
6 Starch and Glucose industry (3 units)	50 tons of starch and 5 tons dextrose per day	150	75	250	500	Public	Quilon	do
D. MINERAL-BASED INDUSTRIES.								
7 High Tension Insulators (2 units)	2,400 tons each	120.0	25.6	1,000	2,000	Private	Kundara	Availability of good raw material and growing demand
8 Sanitary ware, Government Ceramic concern (based on Plastic-clay)	600 tons	15 0	20	50	100	Public	Kundara	Availability of good raw material viz, ilmenite deposits and growing demand
9 High Tension insulators (from China clay), Kerala Government Ceramic Factory	2,400 tons	30 00	10.8	250	1,000	..	Kundara	do

* This table is taken from *Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala*, pp 346-55

APPENDIX III

TABLE 'B'

	Name of industry	*Additional annual capacity to be achieved by 1970-71*	*Additional investment (Rs. lakhs)*	*Net value of additional out-put (Rs. lakhs)*	*Additional employment potential*	*Power requirement K. W.*	*Public or Private sector*	*Location*
	ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES							
1	Structural Fabrication	20,000	50	100	800	500	Private	Quilon
2	Aluminium conductors	15,000	100	180	500	500	Private	Kundara

APPENDIX IV

Industry-wise statement of Trade Unions functioning in the Quilon District in 1961

Sl. No.	*Industry*		*No. of Unions*	*Membership*
1	Agriculture	..	6	317
2	Aluminium	..	3	257
3	Beedi works	..	6	1,025
4	Cashew industry	..	27	30,832
5	Ceramic works	..	4	588
6	Coir industry	..	17	2,354
7	Engineering work	..	5	821
8	Estate Kanganies	..	1	..
9	Factory work	..	1	..
10	Fertilisers and Sugars and Chemicals	..	1	28
11	Fishing	..	5	172
12	Hair dressing	..	2	100
13	Head load	..	6	764
14	Hotel work	..	3	188
15	Lime shell work	..	1	..
16	Matches	..	2	493
17	Medicine and Public Health	..	3	89
18	Mines and Minerals	..	4	4,222
19	Mineral oil	..	1	145
20	Miscellaneous	..	22	850
21	Motor and mechanical	..	5	122
22	Municipal service	..	3	726
23	Oil Milling and soaps	..	3	158
24	Paper industry	..	5	818
25	Pencil manufacturing	..	1	38
26	Picture house	..	3	51
27	Plantation	.	16	4,981
28	Plywood and wood work	..	11	1,400
29	Port and stevedoring	..	4	728
30	Printing	..	4	271
31	Public works and Electricity	.	11	989
32	Quarrying	..	1	..
33	Rickshaw	..	1	..
34	Shops and Establishment	..	5	769
35	Steam and Motor Boat Crew	..	1	..
36	Tailoring industry	..	2	..
37	Textile	..	7	840
38	Tile works and potteries	..	9	1,747
39	Tin fabrics	..	2	283
40	Toddy tapping	..	7	1,131
41	Transport	..	2	111
42	Water Transport	..	1	312
	Total	..	224	58,680

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

History of indigenous banking in the District

The origin of indigenous banking in the District may be traced back to the beginning of the 19th century. The indigenous bankers, otherwise known as *hundi* merchants, were mostly Brahmins who came from the Madurai-Tirunelveli region of Madras State. Early in the 19th century Velu Thampi Dalawa who did much to improve Quilon town built new bazaars inviting merchants from Madurai and Tirunelveli to settle here and do business. Their operations were not, however, confined to Quilon town only. They settled down and carried on their operations in almost all important trading centres. The bulk of the *hundi* business was run as family concerns, the oldest male member being in management. The *hundi* merchants received deposits on a system called *pattuvaravu*, which may be described as current accounts. The interest was collected on the daily balance. No distinction was made between current accounts and fixed deposits. They issued loans on credit or *Melezhuthu* and dealt in *hundi* which may be described as an inland bill of exchange or sight draft. The depositors were given a pass book in which receipts and withdrawals were noted. They followed a system of chits in the place of the modern cheques. No receipts were given for payments directly made to them, but the remitter got the entries certified in his book in his presence. However, formal receipts were given for payments made by residents in other places. The *hundi* merchants also advanced loans on pro-notes of single or joint signature. The interest varied from 12 to 24 per cent. The accounts were maintained in Tamil.

The *hundi* merchants played a notable part in financing agriculture and internal trade in Travancore till a few decades ago. But their importance and number gradually declined. The Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee (1930) noted that in that year there were only about 22 *hundi* merchants in the whole of Travancore State. Inspite of the smallness of their

number, they had invested about 15 lakhs of rupees in their business and the volume of business exceeded a crore of rupees. They financed the internal trade of the country to some extent. The smaller industrial concerns too received occasional accommodation. In recent times the tribe of indigenous bankers has almost become extinct particularly due to the stringent provisions of the Acts for the regulation of money lending and provision of debt relief as well as of the various legislative measures affecting land tenures. Many have restricted their activities or withdrawn from the field altogther and taken to urban trade and investment.

Indebtedness

Indebtedness has been an acute economic problem for several decades. Writing in 1904 Nagam Aiya observed that "every ryot-nine out of ten of them—had always some debt standing against him, owing to a variety of causes".[1] Though no district-wise figures of indebtedness were collected it was estimated by the Diwan Peishkar that the total extent of agricultural indebtedness in Travancore was Rs. 2.40 crores in 1903-1904. The Economic Census of 1931 estimated the total indebtedness in Travancore State at Rs. 20 crores and the per capita debt to be Rs. 40. The Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee (1930) which conducted an exhaustive investigation including an intensive survey of 13 typical villages in the State placed the total rural debt at about Rs. 25 crores. Kundara and Adur, two villages in the present Quilon District, were covered in the survey. A brief extract of the findings of the survey in respect of Kundara is given below. The total population of the village as per the Census of 1921 was 848 persons (men 225, women 226 and children 397) in 147 families of which 121 were agricultural families. The average number of members per family was nearly six. The total income of all the families came to Rs. 35,075 per annum and it worked out at Rs. 41.3 per head per annum or Rs. 239 per family. Income from agriculture alone was Rs. 13,307 or nearly 37.9% of the total. The total indebtedness of the 147 families amounted to Rs. 40,880 distributed as follows:—

	Rupees
A. *On property security*	
From Banks	500
From others	31,040

1 *Travancore State Manual*, V. Nagam Aiya, Vol. III, p. 133.

			Rupees
B. *On pledge of ornaments & other movables.*			
From Banks	..	..	50
From others	..	..	200
C. *On promisory notes.*			
From Co-operative Society	..	..	128
From Banks	..	..	500
From others	..	..	4,394
Other unsecured loans	..	..	3,883
Grain loans, due to chitties	..	..	185
Total	..	..	40,880

Purpose of Loans.			
Redemption of prior debts	..	..	8,410
For marriage and other expenses	..	..	1,050
For purchase of land	..	..	6,505
For purchase of cattle	..	..	100
For building purposes	..	..	820
For education of children	..	..	300
For litigation	..	..	200
For food and other necessaries of life	..	..	923
For other purposes (chitty & trade)	..	..	21,772
Total	..	..	40,880

Loans on the security of property alone amounted to Rs. 31,540 of a total of Rs. 40,880 or nearly 77%. This debt had accrued as a result of the chit transactions of the members of the village. The average debt per head of the population was Rs. 48.2. The money borrowed was in a good many instances invested in land and livestock. The rate of interest on loans advanced by the local money lenders on property security or on pro-notes was generally 12%. But for small loans on pro-notes or without any security the interest charges were as high as 21% being 8 cash per rupee per mensum. Some of the banks at Quilon were also charging interest at the rate 15% to 18%.

During the great economic depression of the thirties, the problem of rural indebtedness assumed serious dimensions in this District as elsewhere in the country. Agriculturists were hit hard by the steep fall in the prices of agricultural products,

and many fell into the clutches of money lenders. The Government of Travancore took steps to reduce the rate of interest on loans as well as to relieve agricultural distress in general. In 1935 the Agricultural Debt Redemption Committee was appointed to consider ways and means of tackling the problem of agricultural indebtedness and the Agricultural Debt Relief Act was passed in 1937 to implement its recommendations. Conciliation boards were set up under the Act in different parts of the State. Moreover, the Travancore Credit Bank was established in 1938 to help agriculturists and industrialists with loans for the development of agriculture and industry. The relief measures thus provided however proved inadequate to meet the actual requirements of the situation. Hence in 1939 the Travancore Government appointed the Agriculture Debt Relief Enquiry Committee to go into the question of indebtedness in all its aspects. This was followed by the enactment of the Travancore Debt Relief Act of 1940 which provided for a scaling down of debts incurred before January 1937. The Act applied to all debtors, agriculturists or others. Under the Act about 69,000 petitions were received until 1944-45. The total number of rural families in Travancore was about 10 lakhs, but only a small proportion of the indebted families took advantage of the Act. The average size of debt per petition in the case of 34,119 petitions disposed of was Rs. 579.

Rural Credit Survey, 1951-52

Coming to the period after Independence, an enquiry into the extent of rural indebtedness in the Quilon District was held in 1951-52, as part of the All India Rural Credit Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in 75 selected Districts in the country. Eight villages in the erstwhile Quilon District were selected for intensive survey. Of these, three, viz. Manapally South, Chathannur Erom and Nedumon were in the present Quilon District. The relevant findings of the enquiry may be briefly summarised here in so far they have a bearing on the problem of indebtedness in the District. Of the 1951 cultivating families covered by the survey, 478 families or about 25 per cent did not report any debt. About 29 per cent of the cultivating families reported that their debt was less than Rs. 100, while 22 per cent reported it to be between Rs. 100 and Rs. 300. The remaining 24 per cent reported their debt to be more than Rs. 300. The table given below shows the frequency distribution of cultivating families according to the size of outstanding debt.

Frequency distribution of cultivating families according to the size of outstanding debt.

Size of debt.			*Number of cultivating families*	*Percentage*
Nil	..	..	478	25
Below Rs. 50	..	..	330	17
Rs. 50—100	..	..	233	12
Rs. 100—150	..	..	162	8
Rs. 150—200	..	..	126	6
Rs. 200—250	..	..	107	5
Rs. 250—300	..	..	54	3
Rs. 300—400	..	..	97	5
Rs. 400—500	..	..	79	4
Rs. 500—750	..	..	116	6
Rs. 750—1,000	..	..	38	2
Rs. 1,000 and above	..	..	131	7
Total	..	..	1,951	100

The average outstanding debt per family was determined by two factors viz., the level of debt per indebted family and the proportion of indebted families among all families. Among the cultivating families the proportion of indebted families varied from 60.6 in Nedumon to 79.9 in Manapally South. At the same time the debt per indebted family ranged from Rs. 180 in Manapally South to Rs. 494 in Chathannur Erom. The relevant data in regard to the three villages covered by the survey in the present District are given in the following table.

Ranking of villages according to the debt position of cultivators.

Proportion of families indebted		*Average debt per family*		*Debt per indebted family*	
Village	*Percentage*	*Village*	*Amount*	*Village*	*Amount*
			Rs.		Rs.
Manapally South	79.9	Chathannur Erom	397	Chathannur Erom	494
Chathannur Erom	74.2	Manapally South	144	Nedumon	182
Nedumon	60.6	Nedumon	110	Manapally South	180

The proportion of indebted families in the various groups of cultivators did not indicate any consistent or inverse trend

with the increase in the size of holdings. This may be seen from the following table.

Size of Debt

Group		Proportion of indebted families (per cent)	Average debt per family Rs.	Debt per indebted family Rs.	Average debt per acre of cultivated holding Rs.
Big cultivators	..	71.8	969	1,350	113
Large cultivators	..	77.1	638	827	147
Medium cultivators	..	75.2	206	274	265
Small cultivators	..	73.2	97	132	413
All cultivators	..	75.2	303	404	179
Non-cultivators	..	69.3	91	132	..
ALL FAMILIES	..	73 4	239	326	..

The average debt per family as well as debt per indebted family declined with the decline in the size of the cultivated holdings. However, debt per acre of cultivated holding tended to increase consistently with the decline in the size of cultivated holdings. This perhaps indicates that the burden of debt on the large cultivators was somewhat low, in any case, lower than that of the medium and small cultivators' groups. It was obvious that the burden per acre in the large cultivators' group was low while that in the group of small cultivators was higher than in other groups. The comparatively high burden of debt in the group of small cultivators is however explained by the fact that some of the cultivators in this group were not merely agriculturists but also engaged themselves in other types of work. Consequently their outstanding debt must have been contracted in relation not to agricultural lands or farm business, but to other economic activities which they might have been carrying on. The table given below shows the incidence of debt as revealed in the intensive enquiry for the upper and lower strata cultivators during the survey.

Incidence of Debt.

Strata	Average Debt				
	Per family	Per acre of sown area	Per Rs. 100 of gross produce	Per Rs. 100 of value of owned land and buildings	Per Rs. 100 of total value of owned assets
Upper strata	328	108	32	3	3
Lower strata	106	252	75	7	7
All cultivators	217	126	37	4	4

It may be interesting in this connection to enquire into the purposes of borrowings as revealed by the Survey. It was noted that about 48 per cent of the borrowings of cultivators were for family expenditure, the proportion being as high as 61% in the case of small cultivators. Big cultivators borrowed to a lesser extent for family expenditure. The proportion of borrowings for expenditure on agriculture to the total borrowings of this group was 25% which was highest among all groups of cultivators. A statement of borrowings for various purposes in different groups of cultivators is given on page 358.

We may also refer to the rates of interest on which loans were borrowed. About 58% of the borrowings were at rates lower than 12½ per cent while about 8 per cent were at rates varying between 18 and 35 per cent. About 33 per cent of the total borrowings of cultivators were interest free, a substantial portion of such borrowings being from relatives and traders and commission agents. The following is a statement of loans borrowed according to rates of interest.

Cash loans borrowed according to rates of interest.

Rate of interest per annum		*Proportion of total borrowings at this rate of interest (per cent)*		
		Upper strata	*Lower strata*	*All cultivators*
Nil	..	33.5	29.5	33.0
Less than 3 1/2 per cent	..	..	..	..
3 1/2—7 per cent	..	5.6	7.3	5.7
7-10 per cent	..	3.9	12.4	4.9
10-12 1/2 per cent	..	49.3	34.8	47.6
12 1/2-18 per cent	..	..	..	..
18-25 per cent	..	4.4	12.5	5.4
25-35 per cent	..	3.1	..	2.8
35-50 per cent	..	0.2	3.5	0.6
50 per cent and above	..	..	..	..
Unspecified	..	..	..	..
Total	..	100.0	100.0	100.0

Relative importance of various credit agencies

The Rural Credit Survey (1951-52) also throws light on the relative importance of various credit agencies operating in the District. The agencies which supplied credit were classified into nine categories, viz., Government, Co-operatives, relatives, landlords, agriculturist money lenders,[1] professional

1 An agriculturist money lender has been defined as one whose major profession was agriculture and whose money lending business was comparatively of minor importance.

Borrowing for various purposes in different groups of cultivators.

Group	*Total Amount*	*Capital expenditure in agriculture*	*Current farm expenditure*	*Non-farm business expenditure*	*Family expenditure*	*Other expenditure*	*More than one purpose*
Big cultivators	806	200	31	174	323	61	17
	(100)	(25)	(4)	(22)	(40)	(8)	(2)
Large cultivators	564	104	25	121	247	38	30
	(100)	(18)	(4)	(21)	(44)	(7)	(5)
Medium cultivators	187	24	8	37	98	14	6
	(100)	(13)	(4)	(20)	(52)	(8)	(3)
Small cultivators	108	7	1	26	66	7	2
	(100)	(7)	(1)	(24)	(61)	(6)	(2)
All cultivators	278	43	11	59	133	19	12
	(100)	(13)	(4)	(21)	(48)	(7)	(4)
Non-cultivators	85	2	..	30	49	3	..
	(100)	(2)	..	(35)	(58)	(4)	..
ALL FAMILIES	219	31	8	50	108	15	8
	(100)	(14)	(4)	(23)	(49)	(7)	(4)

money lenders,[1] traders and commission agents, commercial banks and others, and all loans were classified according to the source of borrowing. The Survey revealed the complete domination of the money lender-cum-trader on the rural credit structure of the Quilon District. In fact, private credit agencies operated as a solid block and commercial banks stood at the back of this private credit system as relatively the most important agency in the financial super-structure of this block. The statistical information given below will illustrate the relative importance of the various credit agencies. The average amount borrowed per cultivating family in the District according to the General Schedule of the survey was Rs. 278, of which co-operatives and relatives granted Rs. 13 and 61 respectively and professional money lenders, traders and commission agents accounted for Rs. 61, Rs. 147 and Rs. 56 respectively. The relevant data are given in the table on the page 360. It may be noted that the proportion of cultivating families reporting borrowings from Government and co-operatives was 0.3 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively. This shows that Government finance was not of any significance in the District and also that the co-operative movement was in a relatively underdeveloped stage. The cultivators were thus left with no other source but private credit agencies for meeting credit needs. About 28 per cent of the families reported interest free loans from relatives, accounting for about 22 per cent of the total borrowings. About 34 per cent of the total borrowings of the cultivators was met by professional money lenders; about 30 per cent of the cultivating families reported borrowings from this agency. About 33 per cent of the cultivating families reported borrowings from traders and commercial agents. This accounted for 29 per cent of the total borrowings. Thus it may be seen that the private agencies, particularly professional money lenders, traders and commission agents, supplied about 63 per cent of the total credit obtained by the cultivators. In short, the Rural Credit Survey of 1951-52 revealed the predominance of the professional money lenders-cum-traders in the Rural Credit structure of the Quilon District.

1 The professional money lender has been defined to include all those who earned a substantial part of their income from money lending and who could not be classified as agriculturist money lenders.

Relative importance of credit agencies—cultivators.

Credit Agencies	Borrowings: Proportion of families borrowing from the specified agency (%)	Borrowings: Proportion of borrowings from the specified agency to the total borrowings from all agencies (%)	Borrowings: Average borrowings per borrowing family from the specified agency (Rs.)	Borrowings: Average borrowings per family from the specified agency (Rs.)	Debt: Average debt per family owned to the specified agency (Rs.)	Debt: Proportion of debt owned to the specified agency to the total debt owned to all agencies (%)
Government ..	0 3	..	33	..	..	..
Co-operatives ..	3.1	4.6	419	13	27*	8.8*
Relatives ..	28.1	21.8	215	61	61	20.1
Landlords ..	2 5	1.1	129	3	3	1.2
Agriculturist money lenders ..	..	..	..	..	1	0.2
Professional money lenders ..	30.4	33.7	308	94	147	48.4
Trades and Commission agents ..	32.9	29.2	246	81	56	18.4
Commercial banks ..	10.1	6.6	181	18	†	†
Others ..	4 7	3.1	169	8	9	2.9
Total ..	73 6	100.0	377	278	303	100.0

* Includes also commercial banks.

† Included under co-operatives.

JOINT STOCK BANKS

Of the 75 Districts selected by the Reserve Bank of India for enquiry in the All India Rural Credit Survey (1951-52) Quilon was one among the more commercialised and monetised Districts. There was a relatively higher proportion of borrowings from commercial banks in Quilon than in any of the other Districts. Whereas the proportion of borrowings from commercial banks for India as a whole was 0.9% that for Quilon District was 6.6%. In fact, banking is being carried on as an economic activity in this District for several decades. Both the Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee of 1930 and the Travancore-Cochin Banking Enquiry Commission of 1956 pointed out this phenomenon. Though banks are concentrated in urban areas like Quilon, they are spread out in the rural areas of the District as well, viz., in places with a population of less than 5,000. The Travancore-Cochin Banking Enquiry Commission (1956) observed that 43 out of 104 places with a population of over 5,000 in the then Quilon District had banking offices, while the total number of banking offices as on 31st December 1955 was 152.

Most of the banks functioning a few decades ago are now defunct. The Report of the Travancore Banking Inquiry Committee (1930) reveals that out of the 23 Banks in Quilon District as on 31st July 1929 none is functioning to day.[1] The average size of the banks then was very small. Initially the formation of new banking companies was a slow process, but it picked up momentum during the period following the termination of the First World War. A particularly powerful impetus to the banks was given during the period 1927-30 which coincided with the peak level of world prosperity. The business conducted by banks was not limited only to the twin functions of acceptance of deposits and dispensing credits. On

1 These banks are (1) The Quilon Bank Ltd. (2) The Mercantile Bank Ltd. (3) The Travancore Eastern Bank Ltd. (4) The Travancore Bank Ltd. (5) The Industrial Bank Ltd. (6) The Citizen's Bank Ltd. (7) Ezhumattur Bank Ltd. (8) The Swadesi Bank Ltd. (9) The Pathanamthitta Bank Ltd. (10) The K & C Bank Ltd. (11) The Capital Bank Ltd. (12) The Narayana Vilasom Bank Ltd. (13) The Universal Bank Ltd. (14) The Ranni Bank Ltd. (15) The Ranni Union Bank Ltd. (16) The Adur Bank Ltd. (17) The Ranni Highland Bank Ltd. (18) Sasthamcottah Bank Ltd. (19) The Sri Vijayam Bank Ltd. (20) The Family Provident Bank Ltd. (21) The Thevalakara Bank Ltd. (22) The Oriental Bank Ltd. (23) The International Bank Ltd.

the other hand the business of *kuries* or *Chitties* also formed a substantial portion of their total business.[1] Even though the depression adversely affected the working of the existing banking concerns, there was no significant decline in the number of banks operating in the District. On the contrary the number of banks in the Travancore State showed an increase in the depression years. A Committee appointed by the erstwhile Travancore Government to enquire into the economic depression stated inter alia that "the banking concerns of the State are indeed severely affected; moneys lent out are practically locked up".[2] However, their earnings were not so critically affected as to result in their liquidation on a large scale. During 1934-38 the net fall in the number of banks was meagre. Since 1939 a much larger number of banks in Travancore were wiped out; the bank floatations also were few and far between. The disappearance of a large number of banks after 1939 is not difficult to explain if it is remembered that the closure of banks coincided with a piece of legislation introduced by the then Travancore Government. No law was in existence before 1938 governing the various aspects of commercial banking as a consequence of which prudent banking principles were hardly adhered to in banking operations. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee, the Government enacted the Travancore Companies Act (Act IX of 1114 K E. 1938-1939) imposing certain restrictions on banking companies including one prohibiting them from conducting *chitties*.

The sudden liquidation in 1938 of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank Ltd., which was one of the big banks in the State functioning with headquarters at Quilon, had its effect on other banks as the general confidence of the depositors in banks was severely shaken.[3] But although there was a decline in the number of banks after 1939, there appears to have been simultaneously considerable branch expansion on the part of surviving banks. We, however, do not possess detailed statistics regarding the number of offices opened and closed during

1 The Trivandrum and Trichur *District Gazetteers* give a detailed explanation of the rapid growth of banking activity and the reader may refer to these volumes.

2 *Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee,* Travancore, 1931, 1.20.

3 For a detailed account of the events leading to the liquidation of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank and the significance of the episode in the history of the Indian Banking see *Modern Banking in India*, S. K. Muranjan, pp. 315-21.

each year. But it may be pertinent to point out that two leading banks in the country, the Central Bank of India and the State Bank of India (then the Imperial Bank of India), extended the sphere of their activities to this District in the forties. The Central Bank established its Quilon Branch on December 6, 1943 and the State Bank on October 14, 1946. While the former has since then been in the forefront in the matter of providing finance for the growth of the Cashew Industry in Quilon in the wake of the failure of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, the latter has played an important part in providing credit facilities to marketing and processing societies, Land Mortgage Banks and small-scale industries.

A distinguishing trend observed by the Travancore-Cochin Banking Enquiry Commission (1956) in regard to banking in Quilon District was that whereas the banks functioning in the rural areas were deposit centres, those in the urban areas particularly Quilon, an important commercial centre in the State, were 'advance centres'.[1] The commission observed that the banks utilised the major portion of the funds acquired in the rural areas in financing economic activities in urban areas.

The banks functioning at present in Quilon District are mainly those registered outside it. No bank either scheduled or non-scheduled has been registered in Quilon town. Statistics relating to banks operating in the district as on 31st March, 1962 are given in the Tables at Appendix I. It may be seen from the table that there are as many as ten banks functioning in Quilon town. The one bank which has the maximum number of Branch offices in the district is the State Bank of Travancore, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India. In spite of the existence of several banking institutions in the District, the banking habit has not yet taken root among the people. The reason for this is that the majority of the population belong to the middle class with practically very little to save in the form of cash. People prefer to invest what little surplus they have in gold and landed property rather than deposit in a bank. However, the banking facility is being gradually extended to all places in the district and banks now play a relatively important part in mobilising the available surplus funds from the public. Some of the banks like the Syndicate Bank have their special schemes like the Pigmy Deposit Scheme in order to

1 "Deposit centres" were defined as places where the deposits exceeded twice the advances; and "Advance centres" were places where advances considerably exceeded the deposit.

encourage thrift and saving habits among the people. Small amounts are collected at the doors of the people and repaid to them with interest after a specified period. It may be mentioned in this connection that after the liquidation of the Palai Central Bank in August 1960, the development of banking received a set-back in this district as elsewhere in the State and the smaller banks were taken over by the bigger ones one after the other with the result that the common man lost the individual attention and service he was receiving till then from the smaller banks. But the surviving banks are now trying to fill up the gap left by the disappearance of the smaller banks by launching new schemes like Pigmy deposits, personal loans for small business, foreign studies etc.

Reference may also be made in this connection to the role of Banks in the industrial development of the District. Quilon is a prosperous industrial centre and the Cashew processing industry in particular occupies an important place. The cashew is also a substantial foreign exchange earner. As such banks advance loans mainly to these processing units and also to the exporters of Cashew. We do not have complete figures of the loans advanced by all the local banks to the Cashew processing and exporting units. A report received from the Canara Bank which has two branches in Quilon one of which was set up as early as 1937 shows that up to August 1963 the total advances of both the branches were around Rs. 1.30 crores, the cashew industry alone claiming more than 85 per cent of this.

CHITTIES

The chitti is an institution indigenous to Kerala. It is an institution for providing credit facilities as well as for investment of savings.[1] Chitties are organised by foremen. The essence of chitti business is the trust reposed in the foremen by the subscribers. The conditions under which chitties are conducted are laid down in the form of an agreement known as the *variola* and they are filed in the office of the Chitti Registrars, while registering the chitties. It may be noted that the Sub-Registrars are *ex officio* Chitti Registrars empowered by the Government to register chitties and issue licences under the Travancore Chitties Act of 1120 (Act XXVI of 1120 (1944-45) and the rules and orders issued thereunder.

1 For a detailed account of the origin and working of Chit funds see *All India Rural Credit Survey—District Monograph, Quilon*, pp. 118-35.

Each *chitti* has got a fixed capital with a fixed number of tickets. Chitties are conducted periodically on the dates specified in the *variola*. The subscribers send in their subscriptions periodically and the amounts thus collected are paid to the prize winners. The winner is determined either by drawing lots or by auction among the subscribers. The former is known as *narukku chitti* and the latter *lela chitti*. In the majority of cases the prize winner is determined by auction. Chitties whose capital is Rs. 100 and above have to be registered furnishing cash securities equal to the capital of the Chitti or immovable properties valued at double the amount of the capital as security. Chitties whose capital is below Rs. 100 may be conducted after obtaining licences. The filing of reports described under the Chitties Act and Rules has to be watched by the Chitti Registrars. According to the information furnished by the District Registrar, Quilon, the total number of chitties registered in Quilon District during the period 1951 to 1961 was 5,704 and the value of business turnover was Rs. 1,22,77,972.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES AND BANKS

Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks have also their place in the credit structure of the District. In 1960-61 in addition to the Quilon District Co-operative Bank and the Quilon Land Mortgage Bank there were 414 Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies and 58 Non-agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies in the District.

Quilon District Co-operative Bank Ltd.

The Bank was registered on March, 1, 1958 and started functioning on September, 1, 1958 taking over the assets and liabilities of the primary societies in the District with the Kerala State Co-operative Bank which was till then carrying out the functions and duties of the District Bank. In 1960-61 there were 214 societies and 8 individuals in the membership of the Bank. Its authorised share capital was Rs. 15,00,000 made up of 10,000 'A' class shares of Rs. 100 each and 450 'B' class shares of Rs. 1,000 each. The total paid up share capital came to Rs. 10,08,400. There were different kinds of deposit accounts in the Bank intended for members and non-memebrs alike. The balance outstanding towards deposits came to Rs. 15,38,636 in 1960-61. The Bank borrows large sums of money from the Kerala State Co-operative Bank for the purpose of issuing loans to its members. The following types of

loans and advances are issued to the members:—(1) short term loan, (2) medium term loan, (3) ordinary loan, (4) overdraft and (5) cash credit. During the year 1960-61 the Bank issued a sum of Rs. 51,25,709 to its members towards loans and advances.

The Bank has also drawn up an intensive scheme for the development of co-operative societies in Quilon District. As per the scheme each co-operative society should have a development programme of its own in regard to membership, share capital, loan operation etc. Also every member of the Village Co-operative Society (Credit) should have a production programme of his own. The development programme of all the members of the Village Credit Societies should form the development and production programme of all the Village Credit Societies. Thus the bank proposes to bring all villages within the fold of the co-operative movement and provide them with necessary credit by June, 30, 1965. The details of this programme are being worked out. Moreover, the Bank has succeeded in revitalising many of the credit societies during the past two years through its staff.

Quilon Land Mortgage Bank Ltd.

The Quilon Land Mortgage Bank was registered on July, 24, 1960 and work was started on November, 29, 1960. During the first six months of its working the society was able to collect a share capital of Rs. 46,620 which was a valuable and noteworthy achievement to the credit of the organisers of the Bank and especially to the Co-operative movement in Quilon District. Long term loans for the purchase of land, reclamation of land etc., are being issued through the Land Mortgage Bank. It is expected that the Bank will solve the loan demands of the Quilon District in the next few years.

Co-operative Credit Societies

As stated earlier there were 414 Agricultural Credit Societies and 58 Non-agricultural Credit Societies in the District in 1960-61. These included the Regional Co-operative Banks, Taluk Banks, Urban Banks and Village Banks which conduct regular banking business for their members as well as several other Multi-purpose Societies, Service Co-operative Societies etc. also doing banking business. Table given at Appendix II gives such particulars as the number of societies of different types, their membership, paid-up and share capital, reserve and other funds, deposits, borrowings and total working capital.

Small Savings Scheme

The Small Savings Scheme has made considerable headway in this District. The following table shows the amounts subscribed under the Treasuries Savings Deposit and National Plan Savings Certificate Schemes.

Year	Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates		National Plan Savings Certificates	
	Gross Rs.	Net Rs.	Gross Rs.	Net Rs.
1958-59	Nil	NA	716,045	NA
1959-60	10,000	10,000	1,004,265	706,796.11
1960-61	65,000	65,000	724,000	471,000.00

NA—Not available.

Under the Prize Bonds Scheme inaugurated in this District on 1st April 1960 a sum of Rs. 2,51,000 had been collected in 1960-61. It may be noted that prize bonds are issued for sale in two denominations of Rs. 5 and Rs. 100 respectively. No interest is paid to the bond holders and prizes are distributed among those chosen by lot.

Life Insurance

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has a Branch Office at Quilon. It controls the business of four taluks, Quilon, Kunnathur, Kottarakara and Pathanapuram. The other two taluks of Karunagapally and Pathanamthitta are under the control of the Alleppey and Chengannur Sub-Offices of the Corporation. The main function of the Branch Office is to receive proposals for insurance and forward them to the Divisional Office of the Corporation at Trivandrum. One Assistant Branch Manager (Development) is posted at Punalur to supervise and assist the mofussil field officers. There were 450 insurance agents working under the Life Insurance Corporation in this District on 31st December 1960. The total number of policies issued and the total sum assured for each of the years from 1956-60 are given below.

Statement of the number of policies and the total sum assured (1956-60)

Year	Policies	Sum assured (Rs.)
1956	830	16,56,090
1957	4,322	1,05,42,200
1958	8,381	1,83,53,350
1959	7,196	1,83,08 900
1960	7,454	2,32,67,400

It is seen from the above table that there has been a steady expansion of Life Insurance business in the District since the Life Insurance Corporation came into existence on 1st September 1956.

AID TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Kerala Financial Corporation

The Kerala Financial Corporation which was established in 1953 under the State Financial Corporations Act 1951 functions with headquarters in Trivandrum. The Corporation has played an important part in the industrial development of Quilon District. Since its inception in 1953 up to October 1961 it has granted 38 loans in this District totalling Rs. 32,09,223 benefiting such industries as cashew processing, tiles, saw mills, manufacturing of edible oils, cotton textiles, coir manufacture, manufacturing of bakery products, rubber, manufacture of water meters and steam meters, china ware and pottery and linoleum and such other products. The loans are granted for expansion and development of existing industrial units by acquisition of fixed assets, renovation, expansion or modernisation and also in special cases, for working capital to a limited extent. The loans are ordinarily repayable in 20 half yearly equated instalments. The rate of interest charged by the Corporation is 7% per annum with a rebate of ½% for prompt repayment of all the instalments on the due dates, the rebate being generally against the last instalment or at the time of closing the loan account, if earlier. A detailed statement of the loans granted to industries in Quilon District during the period 1954-61 is given below.

Statement of loans granted by the Kerala Financial Corporation (1954-1961)

Sl. No.	*Type of industry*	*No. of loans*	*Size of loan* (Rs.)
1	Cashewnut Processing	7	8,61,000
2	Tiles	7	4,09,500
3	Saw Mill	5	2,65,000
4	Manufacturing of Edible Oils	11	6,41,500
5	Manufacturing of Bakery Products	1	20,000
6	Cotton Textiles	1	5,00,000
7	Coir manufacture	1	55,000
8	Water meters, steam meters etc.	1	2,00,000
9	Rubber (others)	1	50,000
10	China ware & pottery	1	1,50,000
11	Linoleum & similar products	2	57,225
	Total	38	32,09,225

Assistance to Small Scale Industries

The State Government issues loans to industries under the State Aid to Industries Act 1952 and the Small Scale Industries Aid Scheme. Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act bear simple interest at 5½% and are repayable in yearly or half yearly instalments within a period of 20 years. The loans under Small Scale Industries Aid Scheme bear simple interest at 3½% and are repayable in yearly or half yearly instalments within 11 years. Loans under both schemes are granted for construction of factory buildings, purchase of machinery, towards working capital etc. The loans granted in this District up to 31st December 1961 amounted to Rs. 11,08,420.

The industry-wise statement of loans is given below:

Industry-wise statement of loans granted to Small Scale Industries up to 31st December 1961

Sl. No.	*Name of industry*	*Loans granted* Rs.
1	Wood industries	2,19,000
2	Bricks industry	6,000
3	Bell-metal industry	2,500
4	Umbrella industry	9,000
5	Rubber products	1,400
6	Printing industry	1,26,500
7	Iron articles	29,400
8	Lime industry	2,000
9	Cashew shell	4,400
10	Food products	27,000
11	Leather industry	47,300
12	Medicines	23,000
13	Paints and plastics, varnishes	8,750
14	Automobile industry	95,700
15	Soap industry	41,700
16	Processing studio	4,000
17	Pencil industry	69,900
18	Areated water	6,400
19	Plastic toys	5,000
20	Ink	3,000
21	Rattan industry	5,000
22	Oil mill industry	33,000
23	Coir industry	72,470
24	Bamboo mats	2,400
25	Saw mill industry	1,41,700
26	Lemon grass oil industry	2,000
27	Cashew industry	39,000

Sl. No.	Name of industry	Loans granted Rs.
28	Starch and sago	10,000
29	Rubber toys	6,500
30	Clay works	11,500
31	Electroplating	2,600
32	Furniture	7,300
33	Screwpine	3,200
34	Canning	9,000
	Total	11,08,420

Aid to Weaver's Co-operative Societies

The Department of Industries and Commerce gives loans to Weavers Co-operative Societies. The loans granted towards share capital carry an interest of 3⅛% and are repayable in two instalments. The loans granted towards working capital carry an interest of 4⅛% and are repayable in 10 equal instalments. Dye House loans carrying an interest of 3⅝% and repayable in five instalments are also granted. A statement showing the loans granted to the Weavers Co-operative Societies in Quilon under each of these three categories is given below:

Statement of loans granted to Weavers Co-operative Societies (1954-1962)

Year	Share Capital Loan		Working Capital Loan		Dye House Loan	
	No. of Societies	Amount Rs.	No. of Societies	Amount Rs.	No. of Societies	Amount Rs.
1954-55	14	28,905	14	75,760	..	..
1955-56	28	42,270	29	2,56,880	..	..
1956-57	7	10,810	20	1,59,040	..	..
1957-58	11	13,012	2	8,500	..	..
1958-59	7	7,275	1	18,000	2	1,500
1959-60	2	1,935	1	49,800	1	1,500
1960-61	2	3,36,750	1	2,000	..	..
1961-62	3	3,73,750	..	..	..	..

Assistance by the Khadi and Village Industries Board

The Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board has also advanced considerably large amounts by way of loans and grants to the Khadi and Village Industries Co-operative

Societies in this District. Up to 31st March 1962 it had disbursed Rs. 6,50,849.71 by way of loans and Rs. 2,17,081 by way of grants to 11 industries. The details are given below:

Statement of loans granted by the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board up to 31st March 1962

Sl. No.	Name of industry	Loans Rs.	Grants Rs.
1	Village oil industry	1,57,207.50	25,550
2	Hand pounding of paddy industry	1,15,757.50	3,500
3	Non-edible oil soap industry	73,250.00	45,800
4	Village pottery industry	66,200.00	29,270
5	Bee-keeping industry	13,475.00	..
6	Khadi industry	1,08,365.25	44,935
7	Gurkhansari industry	37,594.46	16,006
8	Hand made paper industry	57,000.00	31,800
9	Village leather industry	19,500.00	16,500
10	Banana fibre industry	..	1,200
11	Blacksmithy & carpentry	2,500.00	2,500
	Total	6,50,849.71	2,17,081

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. established in July 1961 has also been of late engaged in the work of assisting the industrial development of the State. Till February 1963 the Corporation had advanced one loan amounting to Rs. 9.36 lakhs for assisting the industrial development of the Quilon District. It benefited a concern engaged in the manufacture of single phase electricity meters and was given specifically for the purpose of developing its manufacturing capacity from 75,000 meters to 150,000 meters per annum.

Kerala State Small Industries Corporation

The Kerala State Small Industries Corporation Ltd., which also started functioning in July 1961 is rendering help in speeding up the development of small-scale industries in Kerala. The Corporation has opened a Raw Material Depot at Kadappakada, Quilon, from where raw materials required by the small-scale industrialists are being issued. Controlled materials such as iron and steel, aluminium, zinc, etc. are given against the permits issued by the Director of Industries and Commerce, Kerala State. The Corporation has yet to expand its activities in this District.

Currency and Coinage

The erstwhile Travancore State had a separate coinage of its own, the denominations being known as *Sirkar rupee, Chuckram* and *Cash.* These coins were circulated in the Quilon District also. After the integration of the princely States of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 they were gradually withdrawn from circulation. The most important currency reform introduced in the District in recent times is the decimal system of coinage which came into force in April 1957. The reform has evoked favourable response from all sections of the public both in urban and rural areas.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Imports and Exports

The principal imports into the District are cashewnuts, iron and steel, rice, wheat, sugar, salt, fertilisers, acid, provisions, petrol and oils, textiles, coal and coke. cement, stationery, etc. The chief commodities exported from the District are tiles, bricks and clay, tapioca, cashew kernels, coconut and its products, coir and allied products, fish and fish products, timber and fire-wood, ilmenite, etc. The figures of the volume of export and import trade carried on through the railways in this District during the year 1959-60 are given in the tables given at Appendix III. The tables show that the total volume of inward goods traffic came to 59,42,140 maunds while the total volume of outward goods traffic came to 42,68,208 maunds during the year ending 1960. It may be mentioned in this connection that most of the coal, iron and steel required for use in this region moves from the North to the South through the stations on the Southern Railway and this makes the density of traffic in the Southern Railway relatively high. With comparatively fewer industries producing goods to be moved in the northern direction the Railway in the South has been for long facing the problem of an unbalanced traffic movement.

A certain volume of trade in the District is carried on through the ports of Quilon and Koilthottam. The main import into Quilon is cashewnut and the cashew kernel is the main item of export. Raw cashewnuts are imported from Africa. After processing the cashew kernels are exported to U.S.A. and North Atlantic Ports. The volume and value of

export and import trade in different items at Quilon port during 1956-1961 are given at Appendix IV. The only cargo from the port of Koilthottam is Ilmenite sand. It is exported by the mineral factories near the port mainly to the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. A statement of the volume and value of export trade in Ilmenite from this port during 1956-61 is given in the Table at Appendix V. No cargo is imported into this port. It may also be mentioned that no coastal trade is carried on through the ports of Quilon and Koilthottam.

A large volume of trade in the District is carried on by the waterways. A statement of the traffic carried on by the waterways from each of the principal landing places of Ranni, Chavara and Quilon is given in Appendix VI. A good portion of the traffic is carried on by road routes also. In spite of road transport facilities being available now in larger measure than in the past the water routes still carry a larger portion of the overall traffic as lorries are not able to make full use of the roads owing to the presence of numerous ferries and weak culverts on the roads. It may also be mentioned that transportation by waterways also costs less than transportation by road or rail. The rates by the waterways are often the cheapest. The following is a statement of the comparative rates per ton by water and rail routes for transportation of three commodities, viz., rice, provisions and cashewnuts, between Cochin and Quilon.

Commodity	*By waterway*		*By rail*	
	Rs.	nP.	Rs.	nP.
Rice	9	00	9	10
Provisions	8	60	9	10
Cashewnuts	3	80	22	06

Thus for reasons of convenience and economy water transport is often preferred to transport by road or railway. An analysis of the overall traffic carried on from the principal landing places of Ranni, Chavara and Quilon through water, road and rail routes is given in Appendix VII. It may be seen that the volume of traffic through waterways is very much in excess of that by road or rail.

Regulated Markets

There are no regulated markets in this District.

Wholesale Trade Centres

The internal trade of the District is carried on by wholesale and retail dealers. Quilon which is the most important wholesale trade centre in the District is a major business centre of the State. The market here is situated midway between Trivandrum and Alleppey. It enjoys full transport facilities by rail, road and water and has been closely connected for a long time with the markets in the neighbouring State of Madras. Some of the important agricultural commodities handled in the Quilon market are rice, coconut oil, oil cake, copra, cashewnuts, palmgur etc. Marketing is mostly done through commission agents and brokers. Direct transactions are very few.

Cashew being the major industry in this centre, Quilon market has a monopoly of the cashew business. At the same time it is a consuming market in regard to raw cashewnuts. Cashew is mainly exported to foreign countries such as U.S.A., U.S.S.R., U.K., Canada and Germany. Local consumption is estimated to be only 2%. Many important banks are functioning in Quilon and business is thus made easy for the wholesale merchants. Godown facilities are available in the market.

Quilon is a secondary market for rice in the State, feeding almost all the subsidiary markets in the District. Rice is being imported from important centres in Madras and Andhra Pradesh. Further, a number of oil mills are working at Quilon, and fairly large quantities of coconut oil are therefore exported to the States of Madras, Mysore, Bombay and Andhra Pradesh. Quilon is also the biggest consuming centre for copra. Marketing of palmgur is also well developed in this market. Palmgur is supplied from the Quilon market to the rural areas of this District. Arrivals of this commodity are from Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Madurai Districts of Madras State. Egg is also one among the other important commodities transacted in this centre. About one lakh eggs are exported daily to Ceylon, Madras and Delhi.

In addition to Quilon, there are several other wholesale trade centres in this District. A complete Taluk-wise list

of such centres together with the approximate number of merchants in each of them is given below:

Taluk-wise list of wholesale trade centres

Name of taluk	*Name of Trade Centre*	*Approximate No. of merchants*
1. Quilon	1. Quilon	250
	2. Kundara	50
	3. Chathannur	25
	4. Kottiyam	20
2. Karunagappally	1. Chavara	15
	2. Karunagapally	25
3. Kunnathur	1. Sasthamcottah	75
	2. Kadambanad	100
	3. Paracode	100
4. Kottarakara	1. Kottarakara	50
	2. Kadakkal	40
5. Pathanapuram	1. Pathanapuram	70
	2. Punalur	75
	3. Anchal	60
6. Pathanamthitta	1. Pathanamthitta	40
	2. Kozhencherry	25
	3. Konni	30
	4. Ranni	45

The names of the most important commodities handled at each of the above centres are given below:

Statement of commodities handled at each of the trade centres

Centre	*Commodities*
1. Quilon	Rice, Copra, Coconut oil, Coconut oil cake, Cashew (raw), Cashew (kernels), Palmgur, Eggs.
2. Kundara	Tapioca, Coconut, Vegetables, Pepper (raw)
3. Chathannur	Tapioca, Pepper (raw), Coconuts, Ginger (raw)
4. Kottiyam	Tapioca, Pepper (raw). Arecanut
5. Chavara	Tapioca, Coconuts
6. Karunagapally	Tapioca, Coconut, Vegetables, Arecanut
7. Sasthamcottah	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Pepper, (Green), Coconuts, Arecanuts, Banana, Plantain, Ginger, (green), Vegetables, Eggs.
8. Kadambanad	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Banana, Pepper (green), Cashew (raw), Coconut, Arecanut, Betel leaves, Eggs.
9. Paracode	Rice, Tapioca, (raw), Tapioca (dry), Pepper (dry), Coconut, Arecanut, Banana, Plantain, Ginger (dry), Betel leaves, Gingelly, Coconut husk, Eggs.

Centres	Commodities
10. Kottarakara	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Cashew (raw), Arecanut, Coconut, Copra, Coconut oil, Coconut oil cake, Ginger (dry)
11. Kadakkal	Pepper (raw), Pepper (dry), Ginger (raw), Tapioca (raw), Arecanut
12. Pathanapuram	Rice, Cashew (raw), Arecanut, Banana, Coconut, Pineapple. Tapioca (raw), Pepper (raw)
13. Punalur	Rice, Cashew (raw), Arecanut, Banana, Coconut, Pineapple, Tapioca (raw), Pepper (raw), Ginger (raw)
14. Anchal	Rice, Pepper (dry), Tapioca (raw), Arecanut, Pineapple
15. Pathanamthitta	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Arecanut, Pepper (raw), Banana, Cashew (raw), Ginger (raw), Coconut.
16. Kozhencherry	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Arecanut, Banana, Cashew (raw), Pepper (green), Coconut
17. Konni	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Pepper (raw), Ginger (raw) Cashew (raw), Arecanut, Coconut, Banana
18. Ranni	Rice, Tapioca (raw), Pepper (raw), Cashew (raw) Arecanut, Coconut, Banana

The figures relating to the annual turn-over in quantity and in value of each of the commodities handled at the trade centres mentioned above are given at Appendix VIII. The market charges levied in the different markets in the district vary as follows:

Market charges

	Market charges
1. For a head load of material brought	5 to 6 nP.
2. For a cart-load of material brought	25 to 37 nP.
3. For a lorry load	50 to 75 nP.
4. For a hen	6 nP.
5. For a cattle	12 to 15 nP.
6. For a goat	10 to 12 nP.

Most of the trade centres do not have any sort of storage facilities. The wholesale merchants remove the produce to their own store rooms. The Central Warehousing Corporation has a scheme for opening a Warehouse at Quilon. Bullock-carts, buses and lorries, railways and boats are the important means of transportation. The charge for a bullock-cart for carrying a ton of material to a distance of one mile varies from 75 nP. to 1 rupee and that for a boat from 50 nP. to 75 nP. The cost

of transportation of rice from Tanjore to Quilon varies from Rs. 12.50 to Rs. 15 per Metric ton and from Andhra State to Quilon from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35. The cost of transporting raw cashewnuts from East Africa to Quilon costs Rs. 90 per Metric ton, and that of transporting processed cashew kernels from Quilon to U.S.A. comes to about Rs. 128. It would cost about Rs. 20 per ton to transport copra from Ceylon to Quilon.

Retail Trade

We have already referred to some of the centres where wholesale trade is carried on. Retail shops are scattered over different parts in the urban and rural areas of the District. It is a feature of internal trade in the District that there are no rigid rules regarding wholesale and retail business as some of the wholesale dealers also carry on retail business.

According to the information furnished by the Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax Department there were 4,939 registered dealers in the Quilon District in 1960-61. The same dealer carries on transactions in different commodities. A general idea of the diversity of trade interests and the enormous volume of business transacted in the District can be had from the commodity-wise statement of the number of dealers assessed, value of turn-over determined and tax collected in 1960-61 given as Appendix IX to this Chapter.

Rural Marketing Centres

Almost every village in the District has one or more marketing centres. According to the report received from the Deputy Director of Panchayats, Quilon, there are 214 markets in this District. The vast majority of them are private markets and some public markets. The markets are held on specified days of the week or month. The vast majority of them deal in such commodities as fish and vegetables. There are a few which deal in cattle and sheep, E.g., Paripally, Kannanallur, Kunnicode, Kallumkadavu, Paruthiara, Anchal, Thengamam, Sasthamcottah, Mulavana, Nilamel, Kulakada, Nellikunnam, Ezhukone, Nathayathu, Ottathekkil, Koodal, Paracode, Pannivelichira and Kumbazha. The cattle markets are generally held once in a month but there are also weekly ones.

Fairs and Melas

The District has also its colourful fairs and melas. The most important fair is held at Oachira in connection with the Oachira Kali which falls in the middle of June. Merchants

from all parts of the State bring their wares for sale at this fair which is usually attended by more than a lakh of people. In addition a largely attended cattle show and an industrial exhibition are also held at Oachira during the festival. There are a few important fairs in the Pathanapuram taluk. They are held in connection with the Sivarathri mela in Anchal village, the Vishu Mahotsava in Kulathupuzha, the Mandala Pooja and Trikkalyanam in Aryankavu, the Chandanakkuda Mahotsava in Pathanapuram and the Pushpabhishekam in Achenkoil. A feature of the fair at Kulathupuzha is that the tribal people bring in their handicraft products for sale in large numbers. In addition to handicraft products items of stationery, toys, crockery, brass vessels etc., are sold at all fairs.

CO-OPERATION IN TRADE

Co-operation plays an important part in the trade of the District. Co-operative Societies deal'ng with consumer goods have been functioning here since 1918. The first Co-operative Society registered is the Punalur Paper Mill Employees' Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 52. It was registered on Thulam 15, 1094 K.E. (31st October 1918). The Society functions even now with 217 members and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 6891. Its main function is to purchase consumer goods in bulk and sell them to its members.

In 1960-61 there were about 300 non-credit co-operative societies engaged in such activities as general marketing, milk supplies, farming etc. Of these 13 were marketing societies engaged in the marketing of the surplus produce of their members. There were one Wholesale Consumer Co-operative Society and 11 Primary Consumer's Co-operative Societies which were engaged in purchasing consumer goods in bulk and distributing them to the members. Moreover, there were 21 Primary Milk Co-operative Societies, one Milk Supplies Union, 33 Fishermen's Societies, 12 Co-operative Farming Societies, etc. A detailed statement of the number of non-credit co-operative societies of different types with such details as their total membership, paid-up share capital, reserve fund, deposits, borrowings, and total working capital is given in Appendix X. Brief accounts of some of the leading co-operative societies in the District are given below.

Quilon Processing and Marketing Co-operative Society

The Quilon Processing and Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd. No. Q. 74 is a primary marketing society registered with

the object of marketing the agricultural commodities of the member societies. The society started functioning in 1959. In 1960-61 there were 272 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 20,000 of which Rs. 10,000 was Government share contribution. The society marketed goods worth Rs. 1,00,000 and earned a trade profit of Rs. 2,123.45.

Quilon Co-operative Sanitary Engineering Society.

The Quilon Co-operative Sanitary Engineering Society Ltd., No. Q. 45 is a special type of society doing sanitary plumbing works. For the successful execution of the works which are undertaken by the Society materials and other sanitary goods are being stored. There were 41 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 12,361.90 in 1960-61. During the year the society undertook about 15 contract works and completed them with considerable profit. The Quilon District Co-operative Bank is giving over-drafts to the society with full satisfaction of the terms of the over-draft.

Chavara Coconut Processing and Marketing Co-operative Society

This is the best Marketing and Processing Co-operative Society in this District. In 1960 61 it had a membership of 205 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 20,430 of which Rs. 10,000 was contributed by Government. The Society owns an oil mill and a pucca godown with all the amenities for processing of coconuts. In 1960 61 goods worth Rs. 23,361 were marketed and manure costing Rs. 5,680 was distributed by the Society.

Alind Employees Co-operative Society

This was registered on September 27, 1957 for the benefit of the employees of the Aluminium Industries, Kundara. In 1960-61 it had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 16,683. It bought goods to the value of Rs. 1,84,312 and sold goods for Rs. 2,07,435.

Mangad Multipurpose Co-operative Society

This society has been functioning for over three decades. It is catering to the needs of its members in regard to credit, manures, seeds, and consumer goods. It also undertakes different activities such as weaving, poultry farming, bee-keeping etc. In 1959-60 and 1960-61 the society worked at a profit. There were 1,397 members on June 30, 1961 with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 55,560. The amount outstanding under borrowings was Rs. 94,205 at the end of June 1961. Loans outstanding against members came to Rs. 1,08,822 as on the

above date. The turn-over of the society for the year 1960-61 came to Rs. 5,73,817.

Quilon Government Servants Co-operative Society.

The Society started working on Kumbham 11, 1094 (22nd February 1919). It works under the guidance of the District Collector, Quilon who is Ex-officio President. In 1960-61 there were 1,122 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 43,625.50. The total amount outstanding under loans came to Rs. 1,03,579.60. During the year 1960-61 loans totalling Rs. 57,500 were issued to its members for non-agricultural purposes. The society owns a building constructed at a cost of Rs. 14,000 for the purpose of running a canteen.

Paravur Private Motor Workers Co-operative Society.

The Society was registered on 19th May 1959. It started work with one bus and in the middle of the year purchased another one on hire purchase system. The total ticket collection in 1960-61 amounted to Rs. 63,836.

Harrison and Crosfield Employees Co-operative Society

This is one of the best employees co-operative societies working in this District. In 1960-61 it had 241 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 26,070 and it received a sum of Rs. 1,26,097 towards current and savings deposits from members. The society issued loans totalling Rs. 1,13,226 to its members. The H & C management is giving considerable help for the steady growth of the society.

Fair Price Shops and State Trading

Fair Price Shops have been set up in all parts of the District for the sale of rice, wheat and sugar to the common people at controlled prices. Kerala State is a heavy importer of food stuffs and hence the Fair Price Shops were set up by the Government in 1956 in order to arrest the rise in the price of rice and wheat in the open market and help the common man. A taluk-wise statement of the number of wholesale and retail Fair Price Shops in the District in 1960-61 is given below:

Taluk	*Number of Fair Price Shops*	
	Wholesale	*Retail*
Quilon	12	216
Kottarakara	7	234
Pathanapuram	6	122
Pathanamthitta	8	186
Kunnathur	3	121
Karunagapally	11	157
Total	47	1,036

The fair price shops function under the over-all supervision of the District Collector and the Tahsildars. The stock of rice, wheat etc., is allotted to each Taluk by the District Collector. The Tahsildar is the authority competent to issue and cancel licenses of fair price shops. There is a Taluk Advisory Committee to advise him. Every family is supplied with an identity card in which columns are provided for noting the quantity of rice and articles issued from the shops.

Trade in food grains has been licensed in Kerala with effect from April 1, 1963. Under the Kerala Foodgrains Dealers' Licensing Order issued on February 15, 1963 no person can conduct trade in food grains except under the provision of a license issued by the District Collector. Eleven varieties of foodgrains including rice and wheat are covered by the order. The license will be valid for one financial year and has to be renewed each year.

Merchants' Associations

Being an important commercial and industrial centre a number of Merchants' Associations are functioning in Quilon. The most important of them are the following:

1. The Quilon Merchants' Association, Quilon.
2. The India Cashew Exporters' Association, Quilon.
3. The Kerala Cashew Manufacturers' Association, Quilon.
4. The South India Cashewnut Manufacturers' Association, Quilon.
5. The Oil Mill Owners' Association, Quilon.
6. The Travancore Tile Manufacturers' Association, Quilon.
7. The Saw Mill Owners' Association, Quilon.
8. The Timber Merchants' Association, Quilon.
9. The Vegetable Merchants' Association, Quilon.
10. The Government Contractors' Association, Quilon.
11. The Radio Dealers' Association, Quilon.
12. The Bullion & Jewellery Merchants' Association, Quilon.
13. The Hotel & Tea Shop Owners' Association, Quilon.

Weights and Measures

The old weights and measures prevailing in the Quilon District together with their relative weights in the new metric units are given in the Table at Appendix XI.

The adoption of the metric system of weights and measures was legally initiated in Kerala with the passing of the Kerala Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act 1958. The provisions of the Act were made applicable in the units of mass in Quilon District with effect from October 1, 1958. At the same time the old system of weights was permitted to continue for a period of two years. The concession ceased with effect from October 1, 1960. The use of metric weights became compulsory in this District from that date and the use of the old weights became illegal.

Though the metric system of weights became compulsory, the metric units of capacity had been enforced only in certain classes of undertakings or in respect of certain classes of goods notified by the Government of India from time to time. The Central Government had issued notification appointing the first day of October 1961 as the date on which the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1956 in so far as they relate to units of capacity were to come into force in the district of Quilon. The notification also permitted the continuance of use in the District for a period of one year from the 1st October 1961 of any unit of capacity which immediately before that date was in use in the District. The Government of Kerala have since then issued notification appointing the first day of November 1961 as the date on which the provisions of the Kerala Weights and Measures Enforcement Act 1958 in so far as they relate to units of capacity were to come into force in the District of Quilon except in those classes of undertakings or those classes of goods in respect of which the said provisions had already come into force.

The use of metric system in regard to capacity length measures became compulsory in the District with effect from October. 1, 1962.

There are two Inspectors of Weights and Measures in this District, one at Quilon and the other at Adur, to ensure the smooth transition from the old system of weights and measures to the new one. Facilities for the verification and stamping of new weights and measures are provided in the Inspector's office. The reaction of the general public in Quilon to the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures has been generally satisfactory. It has helped the wholesale dealers in the State to a great extent in eliminating some long standing difficulties in quoting prices in markets inside and outside the

State. It has made inter-state trade easier and more comfortable. The more significant factor in the introduction of the new system is that it has had a very favourable impact on the common man. As the unit approved in wholesale trade is the quintal and the retail unit is Kilogram which is one hundredth of the quintal, it is easy for the common man to calculate the retail prices of articles from the market rates quoted in quintals. It has permanently closed certain loopholes that helped the traders to dupe the common man when the old obscure units were prevalent. The new system has however created difficulties for businessmen engaged in direct export to U.S.A. and Common-wealth countries where the British system of weights and measures alone is prevalent. Such traders are permitted, for the time being, to use weighing instruments graduated both in metric and non-metric units.

APPENDIX—I

Table—I

Banks, their Branches and Sub-Offices in the Quilon District (March 31, 1962)†

1.	Adur	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
2.	Chathannur	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
3.	Chavara	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
4.	Enathu	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
5.	Karunagappally	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
6.	Konni	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
7.	Kottarakara	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
8.	Kozhencherry	Martandom Commercial Bank	(B)
		State Bank of Travancore	(B)
9.	Kundara	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
10.	Paravur	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
11.	Pathanamthitta	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
12.	Pathanapuram	Martandom Commercial Bank	(B)
		State Bank of Travancore	(B)
13.	Punalur	Kerala Service Bank*	(B)
		State Bank of Travancore	(B)
14.	Quilon	Canara Bank	(2B)
		Central Bank of India	(P.O.)
		Indian Bank	(B)
		Indian Overseas Bank	(B)
		Kerala Service Bank*	
		Pandyan Bank	(B)
		Quilon-District Co-operative Bank	(H.O.)
		State Bank of India	(B)
		State Bank of Travancore	(B)
		United Commercial Bank	(B)
15.	Ranni	State Bank of Travancore	(B)
15.	Vadasserikara	State Bank of Travancore	(B)

B—Branch

H.O.—Head Office

P.O.—Pay Office

Number given against a bank indicates the number of its offices.

† This list does not include non-scheduled banks with paid-up capital and reserves below Rs. 50,000.

*This Bank has been taken over by the Canara Industrial and Banking Syndicate Ltd., (Syndicate Bank) with effect from 29th December 1962.

APPENDIX—I—(*Contd.*)

TABLE—II

Members and sub members of the Clearing Houses in Quilon as at March 31, 1962

MEMBERS

1. Canara Bank Ltd.
2. Central Bank of India Ltd.
3. Indian Bank Ltd.
4. Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.
5. State Bank of India.
6. State Bank of Travancore
7. United Commercial Bank Ltd.

SUB-MEMBERS

Quilon Post Office Savings Bank through State Bank of India.

APPENDIX II

Statement of Co-operative Credit Societies as on 30th June 1961.

Type of Society	*Total No. of Socie-ties*	*Number of Members*		*Paid-up Share Capital*		*Reserve Fund*	*Other funds includ-ing other reserves*	*Deposits*			*Borrowings*			*Total working capital*
		Societies	*Individuals*	*Govt.*	*Others*			*Societies*	*Individuals and others*		*Govt.*	*Central Banks*	*Others*	
									Members	*Non-memberse*				
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. *Central Co-op: Banks.*														
Quilon District Co-operative Banks	1	214	8	370000	638400	..	1000	1407042	119517	12077	..	..	3048770	5596806
II. *Agricultural Credit Societies.*														
A. Large Sized	20	..	19377	170000	639862	44101	100630	..	154284	114191	33500	1275351	..	2531919
B. Small Sized														
i. Rural Bank	16	..	7956	..	224183	17062	18961	..	99993	..	10288	444742	1710	816939
ii. M.P.C.S.	126	..	31657	..	691334	51215	121029	..	28757	..	20350	1261961	19447	2194129
iii. Others	252	..	44864	..	766780	120868	202159	..	54373	5280	14000	1242989	12785	2419234

III. *Non-Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies*														
i. Taluk Bank and Banking Unions	3	70	1053	..	71970	11950	30402	17898	42471	19070	..	49007	..	242768
ii. Urban Banks	4	..	2963	..	162779	8545	11585	..	29350	..	..	71553	..	283812
iii. Employees Credit	18	..	5234	..	254837	29747	10479	3583	61648	16000	..	201002	87056	664372
iv. Others	33	..	6300	..	157075	24383	25136	59587	..	70487	..	117407	75618	529693
IV. *Primary L.M.Bs.*														
Quilon Land Mortgage Bank	1	..	1501	..	46920	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46920

APPENDIX III

TABLE A

Statement showing the figures of the volume of Import trade carried on via rail-route in Quilon District during the year 1959-60. (in Maunds)

	Coal and coke	*Cotton raw*	*Cotton manufactured*	*Dyes and Tans*	*Grains and pulses*	*Hides skins leather*	*Ground-nuts*	*Metals & Manganese*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Ariankavu	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..
Thenmala	..	..	28	..	2421	..	..	782
Edamon	..	..	1	9	202	..	..	62
Punalur	..	37	11339	263	124424	2	32	6558
Avaneeswaram	..	..	..	..	1917	..	..	36
Kottarakara	3	..	11	15	86836	..	2	1434
Ezhukone	..	..	..	..	89	..	..	..
Kundara	32762	..	106	..	85862	..	..	26393
Kilikollur	..	..	.	..	1389	..	..	616
Quilon	37319	12572	9530	111	3214580	666	..	244076
Valathungal (Halt)	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..
Mayyanad	..	..	.	..	61	..	..	2
Paravur	..	..	2	..	40	..	..	117
Perinad	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	1
Sasthamcottah	..	..	10	3	..	..	..	..
Karunagapally	..	..	10	3	..	..	..	58
Oachira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX III—TABLE A (*Contd.*)

Stations	*Provisions*	*Oils*	*Oil seeds*	*Salt*	*Spices*	*Sugar*	*Wood unwrought*	*Other commodities*	*Total*
	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
Ariankavu ..	..	..	..	..	..	1980	..	38	61
Thenmala	45	1632	..	..	..	..	6360	37546	48814
Edamon	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	1092	1382
Punalur	665	404	2116	1989	1272	1837	1852	269006	421796
Avaneeswaram	105	41	..	..	..	..	..	7216	9315
Kottarakara	1044	376	29	6392	1131	..	..	172492	269765
Ezhukone	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	126	219
Kundara	166	233	..	..	..	36	3661	147953	297172
Kilikollur	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	352	2361
Quilon	13458	24015	5332	103913	2812	37479	9879	1174026	4889758
Valathungal (Halt)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mayyanad	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	126
Paravur	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	517	691
Perinad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	12
Sasthamcottah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	27
Karunagapally	1	..	..	..	12	..	..	545	623
Oachira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	18
								Total	5942140

APPENDIX III

TABLE B

Statement showing the figures of the volume of Export trade carried on via rail-route in Quilon District during the year 1959-60. (in Maunds)

	Coal and coke	*Cotton raw*	*Cotton manufactured*	*Dyes and Tans*	*Grains and pulses*	*Hides skins leather*	*Ground-nuts*	*Metals and Manganese*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Ariankavu	..	..	..	248	57	..	..	..
Thenmala	..	..	..	.	10669	..	..	53
Edamon	..	..	..	..	33	..	..	18
Punalur	..	308	13	..	750	17	..	1707
Avaneeswaram	..	8	..	..	43	..	..	56
Kottarakara	..	892	..	7	436	38	..	698
Ezhukone	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kundara	..	..	16	136	44266	..	..	102848
Kilikollur	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	714
Quilon	..	9	11625	537	5366	1503	..	35853
Valathungal (Halt)	..	..	.	.	..	..	..	..
Mayyanad	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..
Paravur	..	..	..	..	285	..	..	..
Perinad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Sasthamcottah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karunagapally	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	3
Oachira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX III—TABLE B—(*Contd.*)

Stations	*Provisions*	*Oils*	*Oil seeds*	*Salt*	*Spices*	*Sugar*	*Wood unwrought*	*Other commodities*	*Total*
	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
Ariankavu	..	..	..	..	..	..	1980	29220	31505
Thenmala	2993	..	..	..	..	..	161681	217282	392678
Edamon	..	..	..	..	..	..	22903	105838	128792
Punalur	63	595	..	..	64	..	97969	456602	558088
Avaneeswaram	..	132	..	..	675	..	13312	71131	85357
Kottarakara	44	2033	71	..	841	3638	32072	103098	143868
Ezhukone	43	..	..	..	97	..	..	30	170
Kundara	2476	22836	..	..	156	..	17228	87096	277058
Kilikollur	278	422	..	..	..	..	562	2368	4346
Quilon	3155	1358532	5	550	176	..	340717	883968	2641996
Valathungal (Halt)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mayyanad	85	973	..	..	..	..	128	236	1427
Paravur	31	1206	..	..	..	..	..	1012	2534
Perinad	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	76	90
Sasthamcottah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	52
Karunagapally	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	117	195
Oachira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	52
								Total	4268208

APPENDIX IV

Exports and Imports from Quilon Port (1956-1961)

Year	Name of commodity	IMPORTS: Imports in ton: Ton	Cwt	Qr	Lb.	Value collected Rs.	Import dues Rs.	EXPORTS: Exports in ton: Ton	Cwt.	Qr.	Lb.	Value Rs.	Export dues collected Rs.
1956-57	Raw cashew nut	13245	..	.	..	14210308.00	11404.12	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice	7013	..	.	..								
		20258											
	Cashew kernels	..	..	..	..	..	..	2750	..	..	..	6248667.00	1697.40
	Canoes No. 64	..	..	..	..	..	..						
1957-58	Raw cashewnut	9366	..	..	..	6306917.00	7173.98	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice	3438	..	..	..								
		12804											
	Cashew kernels	..	..	..	..	..	.						
	Canoes No. 56	..	..	..	..	..	..	7444	..	..	..	27351663.00	4375.13
1958-59	Raw cashew nut	16302	..	..	..	9824311.03	9135.57						
	Cashew kernels	..	..	..	..	..	..	5519	..	..	..	16969314.37	3121.43
1959-60	Copra	54	..	..	..	4921611.50	5267.72	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice	9350	..	..	..								
		9404											
	Cashew kernels	..	..	..	..	..	..	1057	..	..	..	1849999.48	685.55
	Canoes No. 44	..	..	..	..	..	..						
1960-61	Raw Cashewnut	36981	12	1	18								
	Salt	38	..	..	..								
	Refrigerators	2	13	3	25								
	Tin Plate	1	16	1	10								
	Trunks	..	5	0	0								
	Radio	..	..	10	..								
	Printed matters	..	..	1	22								
		37024	18	0	19	26770317.78	20759.10						
	Cashew kernels	..	..	..	..	..	..	4911	5	0	18	17105220.53	2774.15

APPENDIX – V

Export of Ilmenite from Kolithottam Port (1956-61)

Year	*Export*		*Export dues collected* Rs.
	Export in tons	*Value in Rs.*	
1956-57	288,650	1,73,19,000	1,62,367
1957-58	257,543	1,54,52,580	1,44,955
1958-59	240,320	1,44,19,200	1,34,579
1959-60	210,893	1,26,53,580	1,17,820
1960-61	163,915	98,34,900	91,274

APPENDIX—VI

Statement of traffic carried by the waterways from each of the principal landing places in the District*

Centre		*Commodity*	*Tons*
Ranni	North Bound		
	Thiruvella	Tapioca	100
	Alleppey	Tapioca	100
		Ginger	100
		Pepper	250
		Turmeric	80
		Timber	5,000
	Kottayam	Rubber	200
	Cochin	Rubber	600
		Total	6,430
Chavara	North Bound		
	Kayamkulam	Tapioca	1,000
		Coconut & its products	1,800
	Alleppey	Coconut & its products	1,500
		Coir & allied products	12,000
	Cochin	Coconut & its products	2,200
		Ilmenite	60,000
		Total	78,500
Quilon	North Bound		
	Kundara	Tapioca	5,000
		Tiles, Bricks & Clay	24,000
		Firewood	3,600
		Others	7,200
	Kayamkulam	Tapioca	400
		Coconut & its products	300
		Tiles, Bricks & Clay	42,000
	Mavelikara	Tiles, Bricks & Clay	4,000
		Timber	1,600
	Alleppey	Tapioca	3,000
		Coconut & its products	2,500
		Coir & allied products	8,000
		Tiles, Bricks & Clay	7,500
	Sherthalai	Tapioca	10,000
	Kottayam	Tiles. Bricks & Clay	8,500
	Cochin	Coconut & its products	8,000
		Cashewnuts	32,800
		Tiles, Bricks & Clay	1,200
		Total	131,800
	South Bound		
	Ithikara	Tile, Bricks & Clay	2,500
		Firewood	1,600
	Trivandrum	Cashewnuts	50
		Tiles, Bricks & Clay	6,500
		Total	10,650

*Source : *Traffic Survey Report on Inland Navigation in Kerala*, 1960, pp. 86-87.

APPENDIX VII

An analysis of the over-all traffic by waterways, road and rail from each of the landing places in Quilon District

Name of the landing place	*Taluk served*	*Total production*		*Local consumption Tons*	*Surplus available (4—5)*	*Transport by waterway*			*Transported by road*	*Transported by rail*	*Total of Col. 8 to 10*
		Commodity	*Tons*			*South Bound*	*North Bound*	*Total*			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Ranni	Pathanamthitta	Coconuts	26557	26557	..						
		Tapioca	105494	14298	91196						
		Sugarcane	23660	..	23660						
		Tubers	5000	3000	2000	19660	6430	26090	93963	..	120053
		Rubber	2120	..	2120						
		Other Agrl. products	2877	1800	1077						
			165708	45655	120053						
Chavara Quilon	Quilon Kottarakara	Tapioca	148159	34798	113361						
		Coconut	126144	98579	27565						
		Cashew	33200	..	33200						
		Coconut husk	25228	..	25228						
		Cashewnut	6732	..	6732						
		Clay	22000	..	22000	38050	210300	238350	10407	114088	362845
		Illmenite	65000	7457	57543						
		Tiles	82000	11000	71000						
		Plantains	4974	4500	474						
		Other Agrl. products	5742	..	5742						
			519179	156934	362845						

* Source: *Traffic Survey Report on Inland Navigation in Kerala*, 1960, pp. 102-103.

APPENDIX—VIII

Annual turn-over in quantity and in value of each of the commodities handled at the whole-sale trade centres

Place	*Commodity*	*Annual turn over*	*Value (Rs. in thousands)*
Quilon	Rice	110000 Metric Tons	68200
	Copra	15000 „	24450
	Coconut oil	10000 „	24300
	Coconut oil cake	5000 „	2300
	Cashew (raw)	186000 „	158100
	Cashew (kernels)	38030 „	227419.4
	Palmgur	1242 „	770.04
	Eggs	35000000 Nos.	3500
Kundara	Tapioca	600 Metric Tons	102
	Coconit	180000 Nuts	36
	Vegetables	24 Metric Tons	12
	Pepper (raw)	40 „	40
Chathannur	Tapioca	480 „	72
	Pepper (raw)	900 „	900
	Coconuts	90000 Nuts	18
	Ginger (raw)	5 Metric Tons	2.5
Kottiyam	Tapioca	550 „	82.5
	Pepper (raw)	30 „	30
	Arecanut	300000 Nuts	60
Chavara	Tapioca	500 Metric Tons	75
	Coconuts	100000 Nuts	20
Karunagapally	Tapioca	600 Metric Tons	90
	Coconut	150000 Nuts	30
	Vegetables	20 Metric Tons	20
	Arecanut	400000 Nuts	80
Sasthamcottah	Rice	8000 Metric Tons	5200
	Tapioca (raw)	450 „	45
	Pepper (green)	50 „	50
	Coconuts	400000 Nuts	80
	Arecanut	100000 „	3
	Banana	2000000 Nos.	200
	Plantain	10000000 „	200
	Ginger (green)	20 Metric Tons	4
	Vegetables	400 Metric Tons	200
	Eggs	150000 Nos.	18

APPENDIX—VIII—(*Contd.*)

Place	*Commodity*	*Annual turn over*	*Value (Rs. in thousand)*
Kadambanad	Rice	500 Metric Tons	325
	Tapioca (raw)	400 ,,	48
	Banana	5000000 Nos.	500
	Pepper (green)	60 Metric Tons	60
	Cashew (raw)	800 ,,	480
	Coconut	300000 Niuts	60
	Arecanut	400000 ,,	12
	Betel leaves	500000 bundles	250
Paracode	Rice	10000 Metric Tons	6500
	Tapioca (raw)	800 ,,	80
	Tapioca (dry)	2000 ,,	1200
	Pepper (dry)	1500 ,,	4500
	Coconut	15000000 Nuts	3000
	Arecanut	3000000 Nuts	90
	Banana	6000000 Nos.	600
	Plantain	20000000 ,,	400
	Ginger (dry)	100 Metric Tons	20
	Betel leaves	800000 bundles	400
	Gingelly	9 Quintals	1.35
	Coconut husk	5000000 Nos.	200
Kottarakara	Rice	100 Metric Tons	64
	Tapioca (raw)	300 ,,	35
	Cashew (raw)	500 ,,	300
	Arecanut	300000 Nuts	9
	Coconut	200000 ,,	40
	Copra	500 Metric Tons	750
	Coconut oil	330 ,,	760
	Coconut oilcake	170	75
	Ginger (dry)	90 ,,	135
Kadakkal	Pepper (raw)	200 ,,	200
	Pepper (dry)	1150 ,,	4000
	Ginger (raw)	200 ,,	40
	Tapioca (raw)	500 ,,	50
	Arecanut	10000000 Nuts	300
Pathanapuram	Rice	1200 Metric Tons	780
	Cashew (raw)	400 ,,	240
	Arecanut	1000000 Nos.	40
	Banana	900000 Nos.	90
	Coconut	180000 ,,	36
	Pineapple	350000 ,,	140
	Tapioca (raw)	600 Metric Tons	60
	Pepper (raw)	150 ,,	150

APPENDIX VIII—(Contd.)

Place	*Commodity*	*Annual turn over*	*Value (Rs. in thousands)*
Punalur	Rice	1500 ,,	975
	Cashew	500 ,,	300
	Arecanut	1500000 Nuts	45
	Banana	1000000 Nos.	100
	Coconut	200000 Nuts	40
	Pineapple	500000 Nos.	200
	Tapioca (raw)	800 Metric Tons	80
	Pepper (raw)	140 ,,	140
	Ginger (raw)	350 ,,	105
Anchal	Rice	500 ,,	300
	Pepper (dry)	850 ,,	3400
	Tapioca (raw)	500 ,,	50
	Arecanut	2000000 Nos.	60
	Pineapple	250000 Nos.	100
Pathanamthitta	Rice	500 Metric Tons	300
	Tapioca (raw)	500 ,,	50
	Arecanut	2500000 Nuts	100
	Pepper (raw)	80 Metric Tons	80
	Banana	1000000 Nos.	100
	Cashew (raw)	40 Metric Tons	24
	Ginger (raw)	250 ,,	10
	Coconut	250000 Nos.	50
Kozhencherry	Rice	600 Metric Tons	360
	Tapioca (raw)	400 ,,	40
	Arecanur	30 lakhs nut	90
	Pepper (green)	90 Metric Tons	90
	Banana	900000 Nos.	90
	Cashew (raw)	50 Metric Tons	30
	Coconut	200000 Nos.	40
Konni	Rice	600 Metric Tons	360
	Tapioca (raw)	800 ,,	80
	Pepper (raw)	120 ,,	120
	Ginger (raw)	150 ,,	30
	Cashew (raw)	600 ,,	360
	Arecanut	1000000 Nos.	25
	Coconut	600000 ,,	120
	Banana	4000000 ,,	400
Ranni	Rice	400 Metric Tons	240
	Tapioca (raw)	900 ,,	90
	Pepper (raw)	140 ,,	140
	Cashew (raw)	500 ,,	350
	Arecanut	1200000 Nos.	36
	Coconut	500000 Nos.	100
	Banana	3000000 Nos.	300

Source : Agricultural Marketing Office, Trivandrum

APPENDIX—IX

Commodity-wise Statement of Dealers, Turn-over and Revenue Collection under General Sales Tax in the Quilon District for the year 1960-61.

Sl. No.	*Name of Commodity*	*No. of dealers assessed*	*Turn-over determined*	*Tax collected*
			Rs.	Rs.
1	Tea	36	17745726.83	878311.97
2	Cashew	69	61594096.06	1728645.39
3	Provisions	665	34390726.82	690708.73
4	Aluminium	2	15345539.28	609848.41
5	Timber	125	8847586.02	189964.03
6	Copra and Coconut	86	2428026.22	45445.83
7	Stationery	191	6690621.45	124570.50
8	Rubber	53	9047001.84	150624.85
9	Electrical goods	34	3353963.12	112931.99
10	Works contracts	27	1141250.49	22708.78
11	Hill produce	168	1898003.00	19877.62
12	Medicines	42	4296468.86	76143.42
13	Bricks and Tiles	26	12315318.64	266405.58
14	Hardware	32	1952944.03	40001.74
15	Jewellery	39	2384849-53	39341.61
16	Paper	7	2439333.97	48808.09
17	Radios	2	57111.78	3998.73
18	Beedi leaves and beedi tobacco	38	1221248.21	9446.57
19	Matches	23	1011933.71	14991.03
20	Motor spare parts	10	441175.12	21512.54
21	Oil	32	17464940.98	358620.50
22	Cooked food	62	12152805.20	581.10
23	Mats and coir	74	2445098.64	27987.02
24	Arecanut	36	1371651.18	54540.68
25	Cotton yarn	4	660815.73	6831.09
26	Toddy	39	3561466.96	70229.34
27	Minerals	1	227902.74	4558.06
28	Cycle and cycle parts	17	848334.64	15619.04
29	Gunny bags	377	754001.14	14668.10
30	Plywood	1	563350.00	11267.06
31	Hosieries	105	689268.38	9532.19
32	Cement	3	146879.98	6491.46
33	Brass Vessels	17	878019.37	18304.67
34	Dhall	2	288053.85	5761.06
35	Prawns	5	89542.00	360.14
36	Leather goods	11	407880.27	10060.60
37	Fire wood	30	127806.00	1961.16
38	Quick lime	1	171100.00	3422.26
39	Dyes and Chemicals	18	330055.19	4908.31
40	Umbrella	11	631873.93	9457.48
41	Glass ware	2	141762.00	2835.26

APPENDIX IX—(*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	*Name of commodity*	*No. of dealers assessed*	*Turn-over determined*	*Tax collected*
			Rs.	Rs.
42	Food grains	13	649435.39	13216.67
43	Sewing machines	4	139296.00	2947.08
44	Bakery	6	134333.84	2686.68
45	Molasses	2	170006.00	3490.00
46	Engineering goods	4	93208.49	1718.12
47	Ceramics	1	70000.00	1400.00
48	Gramaphones	3	95117.00	6658.12
49	Paints	6	195792.00	1915.84
50	Wines and liquors other than toddy	1	6217.26	124.34
51	Soap	4	77254.00	1545.00
52	Petrol and oil	27	1212264.72	18635.07
53	Confectionery	2	273499.24	5470.39
54	Printing	4	1036246.63	20724.93
55	Aloe yarn	3	209737.17	3898.56
56	Photographic goods	3	43574.00	1349.78
57	Vegetable	17	210626.67	111.50
58	Coffee	19	34329.00	286.65
59	Jaggery	5	55465.58	24.08
60	Cardamom	1	9600.00	192.00
61	Starch	1	116161.54	2323.28
62	Kerosene	17	146619.00	927.42
63	Tobacco	5	2497248.42	83305.12
64	Curry in toddy shops	2	224618.00	4492.36
65	Piece goods	26	151500.00	3030.43
66	Other items	186	6652604.78	21928.25

APPENDIX X

Statement of Non-Credit Co-operative Societies as on 30th June 1961.

Type of Society	Total Number of Societies	Number of Members		Paid up Share capital		Reserve fund	Other funds	Deposits			Borrowings			Total working capital
		Societies	Individulas	Govt.	Others			Societies	Individuals and others		Govt.	Central financing agencies	Others	
									Members	Non-members				
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. *General Marketing Co-operative Society*	13	47	1601	50000	65608	818	1004	..	2000	10000	44887	9900	6593	161810
II. *Milk supplies.*														
i. Unions	1	21	40	2000	9275	803	9000	..	1095	..	..	3891	..	26084
ii. Societies	20	..	1243	..	18362	49	2976	..	1675	150	..	770	802	24724
III. *Farming C. S.*														
i. Better Farming	1	..	97	..	209	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	209
ii. Joint Farming	10	..	886	2500	18242	514	1386	2300	3600	..	2600	12353	2521	46022
iii. Collective Farming	1	..	52	..	35800	130	500	..	21428	..	..	..	..	57858
IV. *Irrigation C.S.*	3	..	343	..	3825	..	33	..	5765	..	..	..	..	9623
V. *Consumer Stores*														
i. Whole Sale	1	..	25	..	6150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6150
ii. Primary Stores	11	8	2610	..	79777	2173	21699	..	3943	..	..	47984	96	155672

APPENDIX X—(*Contd.*)

Type of Society	*Total Number of Societies*	*Number of Members*		*Paid up Share capital*		*Reserve fund*	*Other funds*	*Deposits*			*Borrowings*			*Total working capital*
		Societies	*Individuals*	*Govt.*	*Others*			*Societies*	*Individual & others*		*Govt.*	*Central financing agencies*	*Others*	
									Members	*Non-members*				
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
VI. *Housing C. S.*														
i. Urban	1	..	38	..	885	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	885
ii. Rural	3	..	131	..	6546	..	47	..	..	..	9809	..	..	16402
VII. *Weavers C.S.*	8	..	1915	..	22332	1790	8126	..	..	..	..	..	21	32269
VIII. *Other Industrial C. S.*	11	..	1013	..	10011	20	539	..	99	..	..	11404	7626	19095
IX. *Fisheries Societies*	33	..	4310	..	33662	517	8508	..	20120	..	46336	..	58358	164801
X. *Other Non-credit C. S.*														
A. *Agricultural*														
i. Poultry Farming	3	..	179	..	1379	..	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	1579
ii. Colonisation	2	..	480	..	5745	26	7330	..	15	..	100000	..	375000	488116
iii. Agricultural improvement	10	..	796	..	11921	84	203	..	43	..	..	..	3868	16119
iv. Rural reconstruction	3	..	543	..	8227	15	956	..	..	..	..	18605	..	27803
v. Village Development	4	..	516	..	7207	241	1180	..	..	..	325	1550	..	10503
vi. Tapioca C.S.	13	..	687	..	6816	6	1002	..	350	..	..	..	..	8174

XI. *Non-Agricultural Non-Credit*														
i. Student Stores (School & College)	76	4	24506	..	54756	3060	11984	..	8579	..	1763	..	906	81048
ii. Handicrafts & Weaving	3	..	284	..	4285	..	140	..	..	..	14540	..	..	18965
iii. Co-operative Workshops	1	..	105	..	2187	3	375	..	1664	..	750	..	213	519255
iv. Other Cottage Industries	6	..	1575	..	4767	2444	8438	..	692	..	..	..	11185	27526
v. Labour Contract C.S.	10	..	917	..	25350	..	9525	..	48250	..	105	29365	75130	187725
vi. Forest L.C. C. S.	1	..	281	..	2700	..	717	..	..	..	..	..	4654	8071
vii. Motor Transport	3	..	388	..	60019	..	76062	..	15121	66579	..	..	99262	317043
viii. Literary C.S.	3	..	127	..	5693	17	90	..	1500	..	3841	..	..	10781
ix. Lime Shell	1	..	100	..	346	20	43	..	592	..	..	..	2780	9780
x. Chethu Thozhilali	3	..	854	..	43852	1888	35565	..	17621	..	2375	..	..	101301
xi. Harijan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
xii. Social Service	3	..	794	..	10813	53	2763	..	146	..	..	..	..	19775
xiii. Ayurveda C.S.	1	..	25	..	572	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	572
XII. *Supervising Union*	6	519	52	..	..	..	811	..	..	..	..	82	..	893

APPENDIX—XI

Weights and Measures—Old and New

TABLE—'A'

Weights used in gold and silver trade

1 Paddy corn		= 0.001 oz.	= 0.22 grams
4 Paddy corns	= 1 Kunni	= 0.003 oz.	= 0.09 „
2 Kunnies	= 1 Manjadi	= 0.006 oz.	= 0.19 „
2 Manjadies	= 1 Panavida	= 0.013 oz.	= 0.38 „
10 Panavida	= 1 Kazhanchu	= 0.133 oz.	= 3.76 „
21 Panavida	= 1 Sovereign	= 0.28 oz.	= 7.9 „
31 Panavida	= 1 Rupee Weight	= 0.412 oz.	= 11.67 „

TABLE—'B'

Weights used in trade of ordinary commodities

1 Kazhanchu		= 2.1 dram	= 3.78 grams
3 Kazhanchu	= 1 Thola	= 6.4 drams	= 11.34 „
40 Tholas	= 1 Rathal	= 1 pound	= 453.6 „
30 Rathals	= 1 Mannu	= 30 pounds	= 13.608 kg.
20 Mannu	= 1 Kandy	= 600 pounds	= 272.16 kg.

TABLE—'C'

Weights used in trade of medicinal herbs and medicinal products

1 Panavida		= 0.27 drams	= 0.472 grams
10 Panavida	= 1 Kazhanchu	= 2.67 drams	= 4.725 „
12 Kazhanchu	= 1 Palam	= 2 oz.	= 56.7 „
8 Palams	= 1 Rathal	= 1 pound	= 453.6 „

TABLE—'D'

Liquid Measures

1 Thudam		= 2.844 oz.	= 80.77 Millilitre
16 Thudams	= 1 Edangaly	= 45.5 oz.	= 1292.3 „
10 Edangaly	= 1 Para	= 455 oz.	= 12.923 litres
12 Edangaly	= 1 Chothana	= 546 oz.	= 15.51 litres

TABLE—'E'

Dry Capacity Measures

1 Azhaku		= 2.5c. inches	= 40.97 c. cm.
2 Azhaku	= 1 Uri	= 5 c. inches	= 81.93 c. cm.
2 Uzhakku	= 1 Uri	= 10 „	= 163.87 „
2 Uri	= 1 Nazhi	= 20 „	= 327.74 „
4 Nazhi	= 1 Edangaly	= 80 „	= 1310.96 c.cm.
10 Edangaly	= Para	= 800 „	= 13109.65 c.cm

TABLE—'F'

1 Nellida		= 0.156 inches	= 0.4 cm.
8 Nellida	= 1 Angulam	= 1.25 „	= 3.175 cm.
24 Angulam	= 1 Kole	= 30 „	= 76.2 cm.
4 Koles	= 1 Dandu	= 120 „	= 304.8 cm.

APPENDIX—XI—(*Contd.*)

TABLE—'G'

Measurements used in Textile trade

1 Chann		= 9 inches	= 22.86 cmm.
2 Channs	= 1 Cubit	= 18 „	= 45.72 „
2 Cubits	= 1 Yard	= 36 „	= 91.44 „

TABLE—'H'

Units for measurement of lands

1 link		= 7.92 inches	= 20.117 cm.
100 links	= 1 chain	= 66 feet	= 2011.7 cm.

Source : Inspectorate of Weights and Measures, Quilon.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Old time trade routes and highways

Quilon was a great commercial and trading centre from very ancient days and naturally therefore the development of communications and transport in the area received considerable attention. Much of the early trade and traffic of the District was carried on by means of water communication as the District had almost an uninterrupted line of natural communications in its rivers and backwaters. Some of the ancient literary works, inscriptions and writings of foreign travellers give us bits of information about old time trade routes and highways and modes of conveyance in the District. The inscriptions of Ravi Varma Kulasekhara (1299-1313) show that Quilon was a splendid city with broad streets and extensive pathways. One of the finest cities of Kerala at that time having magnificent markets and wealthy merchants where brisk trade in pepper was carried on, Quilon was connected with the interior part of the country with a wide net-work of roads. The *Unnuneelisandesam*, a Malayalam work of the 14th century written by an anonymous author, describes in detail an old time land route called *Kollapperuvazhi* or *Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam Nadakkavu*, which started from Trivandrum and passing along important centres in the present Trivandrum and Quilon Districts reached the town of Quilon which was the capital of Venad. This high road was provided with avenue-trees or *Chalamarams* on both sides of the entire length and was in constant use for more than a century. The present Railway route from Trivandrum to Quilon is believed to run almost along the same route.

Beginnings of modern Road Communication

The first recorded instance of roads having been constructed as a matter of deliberate policy was in 926 Kollam Era (1750-51) during the reign of Marthanda Varma (1728-58). Till his time the so-called roads that existed were merely open

tracks intended for foot-travellers, the nobility travelling only on horse-back or in palanquins. Much of the traffic was conveyed by bullocks and donkeys. Several good roads and water communications were opened during the reign of Marthanda Varma. The canal which connects the backwaters of Quilon and Kayamkulam through Chavara and Panmana was constructed at this time. The Paravur canal was also opened during his reign. Fra Barthalomeo records that during Rama Varma's reign (1758-98), there was a beautiful road connecting Cape Comorin with Kodungallur (Cranganore), which was provided with watersheds and inns at convenient places throughout the entire length. Lieuts. Ward and Corner in their *Memoir of the Survey of Travancore and Cochin* describe the following routes which traversed the country in the beginning of the 19th century:

1. The route from Panagudy to Trivandrum, via Aramboly and thence to Quilon (length 102 miles).
2. The route from Quilon to Shenkotta, via Kottarakara and the Arienkavu Pass (length 59½ miles).
3. Route from Quilon to Cochin via Alleppey and Sherthala in the interior (length 92 miles).
4. Route from Quilon to Irattupetta via Ranni and Kanjirappally (length 69 miles).
5. Route from Panthalam to Pathanapuram (length 16¼ miles).
6. Route from Krishnapuram to Changanassery via Mavelikara, and Thiruvalla (length 25 miles).
7. Route from Karthikapally to Achenkoil Pass, via Mavelikara, Panthalam and Konniyur (length 55½ miles).

These routes lie in parts in the Quilon District. In addition, there were primitive foot-tracks connecting different parts of the District. They were intersected by streams and channels with no bridges over them. Consequently through communication and wheeled traffic were extremely difficult. This state of affairs continued till the time of Dewan Sir T. Madhava Rao (1858-72) when a systematic effort was made to open new routes and improve communications. The Department of Public Works was organised in 1860. Appreciable progress was made in road construction in the course of the 10 years from 1862 to 1872 A.D. A beginning was made for

a new road from Trivandrum passing through the central part of the Quilon District and reaching Kottayam in order to facilitate easy communication between the inland towns and waterways. The road was designed to serve as the main line of communication between the southern and northern parts of Travancore. In 1053-54 K.E. (1878-79) two branch roads connecting Quilon and Varkala Cliffs with the line of communication from Trivandrum and Shencottah were proceeded with. The old route between Trivandrum and Quilon was rendered possible for cart traffic for nearly two-thirds of the whole distance. Side by side with the construction of new roads most of the important routes were metalled and some of them tarred. As an experimental measure a cement concrete road was constructed in 1108 K.E. (1932-33) in a portion of the road near the Railway Station at Quilon.

MODERN HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

The Quilon District is now covered by a net-work of main roads and village roads. The following table gives the particulars of the total mileage under each category of roads in 1960-61.

Sl. No.	Category	Length		
		Miles	Furlongs	Feet
1	National Highways ..	31	4	..
2	West Coast Roads within Municipality ..	4	4	..
3	Provincial Highways ..	166	1	..
4	Quilon Town Roads ..	27	4	499
5	District Roads ..	350	..	330
6	Panchayat Roads ..	1,513	1	..

A classified list of roads in Quilon District with details of the length of each road is given at Appendix I to this Chapter.

National Highway—47

The Trivandrum-Quilon Road (T.Q. Road) from 29|2 to 43|0 (13 miles and 6 furlongs) and Quilon-Alleppey Road from 2|5 to 20|5 (17 miles 6 furlongs) fall within the Quilon District. The roads are black topped except deviations. The T.Q. Road is at present having a black top surface width 18′ and Q.A. road 22′. The alignment of National Highway in

Quilon Town i.e., between T.Q. Road 43|0 and Quilon-Alleppey Road 2|5 has not been fixed. The Highway touches the following important places.

	Place		*Mile*	
1	Paripally	..	30/4	T. Q. Road
2	Chathannur	..	35/3	do.
3	Kottiyam	..	38/5	do.
4	Kavanad	..	3/7	Q. A. Road
5	Neendakara	..	5/2	do.
6	Neendakara North	..	7/2	do.
7	Chavara	..	8/1 8/2	do. do.
8	Sankaramangalam	..	9/6	do.
9	Kaichundipalaka	..	10/2	do.
10	Eadapally Cottah	..	11/1	do.
11	Karunagapally	..	14/0	do.
12	Karunagapally	..	14/4	do.
13	Karunagapally	..	15/0	do.
14	Puthiyakavu	..	15/7	do.
15	Vavakkavu	..	17/6	do.
16	Oachira	..	20/2	do.

The names of the roads which either take off or cross are given in Appendix II.

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

The total number of motor vehicles of different kinds registered in the District as on 1st April 1961 is furnished below:

Sl. No.	*Type of vehicle*		*Number*
1	Private Motor Cars	..	1,493
2	Buses*	..	165
3	Taxies	..	329
4	Public Carriers	..	429
5	Private Carriers	..	123
6	Auto-Rikshaws	..	3
7	Motor Cycles	..	94
8	Tractors	..	44
9	Trailors and others	..	24
		Total	2,704

Source: Regional Transport Office, Quilon.

*The figure is exclusive of the buses of the private operators of the other Districts running services on Inter-District routes covering portions of this District as well as of the buses owned by the State Transport.

The following table gives the total number of non-motor vehicles and conveyances registered in the District in November 1960 under the Travancore-Cochin Vehicles Taxation Act of 1950.

Sl. No.	*Class of vehicles*		*No. of vehicles in Rural and Urban area*	
1	Bicycles	..	21,091	1,864
2	Hand carts	..	683	180
3	Judkas	..	..	..
4	Cycle Rickshaws	..	205	..
5	Bullock-carts	..	3,794	414
6	Four Wheeled Push Carts	..	5	1
7	Four Wheeled Bullock-carts	..	2	..

Source: District Superintendent of Police, Quilon.

Valloms or country crafts also form an important mode of conveyance in this District, in view of its extensive line of water communications. In 1957-58 1,563 country crafts with a total tonnage of 14,220 had been licensed at Quilon to ply on the waters. There were also 8 Motor Boats operating in the water routes from Quilon to Kayamkulam, Kadapuzha and Pattakadavu.

It may be interesting in this connection to refer to the findings of the Origin Destination Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics in Quilon town in 1955-56. The Survey revealed that 85% of the trips in Quilon town were undertaken on foot, even though there are passenger bus services operating in the town. The following table gives fuller details of the number of trips expressed as a percentage of the total.

Mode of travel	*Number of trips*
On foot	85
Bus	4
Cycle	6
Owned car	1
Taxi	1
Rickshaw	1
Boat	2
Train	..

An analysis of trips using conveyance gives the following percentages.

Conveyance	*Percentage*
Bus	29
Cycle	39
Owned car	6
Taxi	6
Rickshaw	8
Boat	10
Train	2

It may be seen that buses and cycles were the most common conveyances used for trips.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Privately owned bus and taxi services

Private motor service plays a significant part in the Transport system of the District. There is a Regional Transport Officer having jurisdiction over Quilon District. He is the Licensing and Registering Authority under the Travancore-Cochin Motor Vehicles Act of 1950. Under him there is a Motor Vehicles Inspector who is also functioning as the additional Licensing Officer and Registering Authority. In addition, there are three Assistant Motor Vehicles Inspectors in the District who are authorised to perform the duties of the Motor Vehicles Inspector such as inspection and checking of motor vehicles, service verification of vehicles etc. Government have also constituted a Regional Transport Authority for the District consisting of three officials and two non-officials. The official members are the District Collector (Chairman), the District Superintendent of Police, and the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads, Quilon. The Regional Transport Officer is the Secretary and the Executive Officer of the Regional Transport Authority.

There were 165 buses operating within the District in April 1961 under the management of private transport agencies. A detailed statement showing the routes on which privately owned passenger services were operating in Quilon as on 1st April 1961 with such details as the number of buses for which permits were in force, the number of round trips sanctioned, and route mileage is given in Appendix III. The following statement shows the details of the labour force

employed in the private motor transport industry in Quilon District as on 1st April 1961.

1.	Conductors	565
2.	Drivers	1,623
3.	Attenders	1,079
4.	Checking staff	167
5.	Mechanics	489
6.	Clerical staff	185
7.	Others	147
	Total	4,255

During the same period there were 329 taxies and 552 lorries operating in the District.

State Transport Service

There are no municipal transport services in Quilon District. Passenger transport services in the majority of the routes are under the control of the State Transport Department. The history of the State Transport services in this District goes back to the year 1937 when the erstwhile Travancore Government nationalised the road transport in the State. The Trivandrum-Quilon route was brought under the control of the Government on *Karkadakam* 5, 1113 K.E. (July 20, 1938), the Trivandrum-Kottarakara- Kottayam route on *Meenam* 19, 1116 K.E. (April 1, 1941) and the Quilon-Alleppey route on *Chingom* 1, 1125 K.E. (August 17, 1949).

There are two Transport Districts within the Revenue District of Quilon with headquarters at Quilon and Kottarakara respectively. Each of these is under the charge of a District Transport Officer. The District Transport Officers are responsible for the operation of the services according to schedule. The allocation of schedules in Quilon District as on August 31, 1962 is given below.

Sl. No.	*District*	*Ordinary*	*Express*	*Lorry*	*Total*
1	Quilon	45	..	1	46
2	Kottarakara	34	..	1	35

A complete list showing the routes on which services are operated by the State Transport Department with their starting points from within the Quilon District is given at Appendix IV to this Chapter.

RAILWAYS

The history of the Railway in this District goes back to the very dawn of this century. The Shencottah-Punalur line was opened on November 26, 1904, the Punalur-Quilon line on June 1, 1904 and the Quilon-Chackai line on January 1, 1918. With the opening of the Chackai-Trivandrum Central line on November 4, 1931 through rail communication between Quilon and Trivandrum City was made available. Through communication from Quilon to Ernakulam via Kottayam was brought into effect,[1] when the Quilon-Kottayam link line was opened on June 1, 1958.

The Meter Gauge line in this District forms part of the Shencottah-Trivandrum section and the Quilon-Ernakulam section of the Southern Railway. The Quilon-Shencottah line crosses the precipitous Western Ghats from Shencottah to Punalur for a distance of 30 miles entering the district at Ariankavu, then traverses the hinterland up to Quilon in East-West direction and runs South to Trivandrum through the West Coast area, leaving the District at Paravur. The Quilon-Ernakulam line leaves the Quilon District near Oachira to enter the Alleppey District. It lies within the Western Ghats and the Malabar Coast in a south-north direction and passes through Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Ernakulam Districts. The enchanting Ashtamudi lake with its eight creeks lies at the Quilon end of this line, the smallest creek being crossed by the alignment at two narrow necks. The line runs through heavy banks and high cuttings except between the Sasthamcottah and Karunagapally stations. There are 13 Railway stations in the Quilon-Shencottah section and four in the Quilon-Ernakulam line in this District. The table given at Appendix V gives the names of the Railway Stations with such details as the distance between stations, the volume of passenger and goods traffic and amenities provided.

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[1] The Kottayam-Ernakulam line was opened on 7th October 1956.

Quilon is an important junction of the Southern Railway consequent upon the opening of the Quilon-Ernakulam line. There is one major loco shed situated in Quilon Station.

PORTS

There are two Ports in this District, Quilon and Koilthottam. Quilon port is an open roadstead on the Arabian Sea. It is situated about 40 miles north of Trivandrum and within the town limits of Quilon. The beach at Quilon is fairly stable. Its elevation is about 10 feet above sea-level. The sea bed is fairly steep. There is a Light House at Tangasseri near the port. The port has a signal station and a flagstaff for transmitting messages to ships and to the shore. Three anchorage buoys have been laid at sea within the port limits for marking entrance channel to the port. Usually steamers anchor about half a mile to one mile off the shore. Steamers are worked in the anchorage with barges of 40 to 50 ton capacity. The work of landing and loading the cargo at the shore is done by means of a floating pontoon approximately about 220 feet long. The hinterland of this port is the Quilon District. The port area is connected by good roads with adjacent commercial centres. The port is under the charge of the Conservator of Port, Quilon, who is under the administrative control of the State Port Officer.

Koilthottam Port is an open roadstead on the Arabian Sea. It is located inside the Chavara Panchayat area and is about 10 miles north of Quilon Port. There are no landing facilities at the Port. Steamers usually anchor half-a-mile to one mile off the shore. Cargo is transported from shore to steamers using small canoes and sailing vessels. There are no approach roads except a small road connecting the main Quilon-Alleppey road with the Plant No. 1 of Messrs. Travancore Minerals Limited, Chavara. The Quilon-Alleppey road and the Chavara canal are very near to the port. The export cargo is usually stored at the beach sheds of each of the mineral factories at the port area. The port is under the charge of the Port Conservator of Koilthottam who is directly under the administrative control of the State Port Officer. A statement showing the number and tonnage of vessels that called at the Quilon and Koilthottam ports during the period 1956-57 to 1960-61 and the total revenue collected at these ports

is given below:

Statement showing the number and tonnage of ships that called at the ports of Quilon and Koilthottam (1956-1961)

Name of Port	Steamers			Dues collected	Remarks
	Year	No.	Tons	Rs.	
Quilon	1956-57	13	48,364	13,101.52	
	1957-58	18	69,795	11,549.11	
	1958-59	17	70,003	12,257.00	
	1959-60	4	15,176	5,953.27	
	1960-61	20	83,765	23,533.25	
Koilthottam	1956-57	42	1,70,664	1,62,367.00	
	1957-58	37	1,47,198	1,44,955.00	
	1958-59	35	1,48,870	1,34,579.00	
	1959-60	34	1,41,161	1,17,820.00	
	1960-61	19	77,251	91,274.00	Includes one Motor Tug 6 tons.

WATERWAYS

Hinterland navigation in the District has been fairly well-developed. The importance of connecting the backwaters by canals in order to procure as far as practicable an uninterrupted line of water communication was recognised by the Government of Travancore during the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880). The Paravur Canal 3.2 KM. (2 miles) long connecting the backwaters of Edava and Paravur was constructed during this time. It was the first canal opened in this District. The Quilon canal connecting the Paravur and Ashtamudi lakes was also constructed about the same time. Then came the Chavara canal connecting the Ashtamudi lake and Panmana backwaters.

The West Coast Canal system which starts from Trivandrum in the South and ends at Hosdurg in the North passes through the Quilon and Karunagapally Taluks in this District. The Trivandrum-Shoranur canal which forms part of this system enters the District at the 28th mile and ends between the 58th and 59th miles. The route from the 28th to the 40th mile, from Paravur to Quilon, is navigable for *valloms* and country crafts only while that from the 40th mile to the 59th mile, i.e., from Quilon to Ayiramthengu, is navigable for motor

boats also. This route comprises of the Ashtamudi kayal, Chavara kayal, Koilthottam kayal, Panmana kayal and the Vattakayal. Another canal route is the Quilon-Pattakadavu route the distance of which is 12 miles. Yet another route is the Quilon-Kadapuzha route (16 miles). The list of important stations on the canal routes together with the distance between each of them is given at Appendix VI to this Chapter.

The principal landing places in the District are Quilon Kallupalam Wharf and the Quilon Boat Jetty. Both serve the Quilon market and neighbouring places and are connected by approach roads. There are regular inter-district passenger boat services between Alleppey and Quilon. There are about 11 daily trips on this 49 mile route and about 3,000 passengers are carried daily. Moreover, there are regular passenger motor boat services operating on the Quilon-Kayamkulam, Quilon-Kadapuzha and Quilon-Pattakadavu routes. The particulars of passenger motor boats operating on these routes are given below.

Route	*Distance miles*	*No. of boats operating*	*No. of trips*	*Duration of Transport Hrs.*	*Mts.*	*Rate charged Rs.*	*nP.*	*No. of passengers carried per day*
1. Quilon-Kayamkulam (Ashtamudi kayal, Chavara kayal, Kayamkulam lake)	31	2	2	4	30	00	50	120
2. Quilon-Kadapuzha (Ashtamudi lake)	16	3	5	3	00	00	37	500
3. Quilon-Pattakadavu (Ashtamudi lake)	12	3	7	2	00	00	31	500

BRIDGES

The construction of bridges has added greatly to the facilities of communication. One of the earliest bridges in this District is the Punalur Suspension Bridge at 28|1 mile Quilon-Shencottah road. Its construction was commenced in 1047 K.E. (1871-72) and completed in 1054 K.E. (1878-79). The Neendakara bridge at 5|3 Quilon-Alleppey road across the Ashtamudi lake was opened in 1105 K.E. (1929-30). It has a span of 1,338 feet and a road-width of 14 feet with footpath

on either side of 4' 3" breadth and a wooden platform over Rolled Steel Girders supported by Cast Iron piles.

Two other important bridges are the Ithikara bridge and the Kannettil bridge. The former is located at 36|6 Trivandrum-Quilon road across the Ithikara river, and has a span of 175 feet and road width 14 feet with R.C.C. deck over iron girders supported by C.I. piles. The Kannettil bridge is located at 13|4 Quilon-Alleppey road and is across the Vattakayal. It has a span of 230 feet and 13 feet width with wooden decking over one girder and cast iron screw piles. Another notable bridge is the Chavara bridge located at 8|2 Quilon-Alleppey road with a span of 144 feet. It is of the low string girder type. There is no other bridge of this design in the Quilon District.

The Kozhencherry bridge located at the end of the Kumbazha-Kozhencherry road and at the starting point of the Kozhencherry-Thiruvalla road on the boundary between the Quilon and Alleppey districts also deserves mention. Opened on 18th May 1948, it has a total length of 515' 9", with the roadway having a clear width of 18'. The total cost of construction of this bridge came to Rs. 3,83,500.

An important bridge which has been constructed in this District recently is the one at Kumbazha across Achencoil river at 14|1 Pathanapuram-Ranni road. Its construction was commenced in December 1955 and completed in September 1957. The total cost of construction came to Rs. 3.28 lakhs. The design consists of three continuous R.C. girder spans of 63', 88' and 63' and two land spans of 26' each at the ends. The clear width of the roadway is 22 feet.

Under the Bridges Development Scheme in Quilon District more bridges were taken up for construction. The most important of these are the Kaipattur bridge, the Ranni bridge, the Vadasserikara bridge and the Velinallur bridge. The Kaipattur bridge was opened on 8th September 1961, the Ranni bridge on 21st September 1962, the Vadasserikara bridge on 18th May 1963 and the Velinallur bridge on 15th May 1963. Brief notes on these bridges are given below.

Kaipattur bridge

Kaipattur bridge is located about 3⅝ miles south west of Pathanamthitta and 5½ miles to the east of Pandalam-Kaipattur road. It is also about 5 miles of down stream of

the Kumbazha bridge. The length of the bridge is 214 feet from face to face of the abutments. It consists of 3 spans of 63′, 88′ and 63′ respectively. Piers are built with R.C.C. The superstructure is of a balanced canti-lever type with a suspended span in the centre. There are three longitudinal girders with cross girders at supports. The clear width of roadway is 22′ and slab thickness 7½″. The total cost of construction of the bridge comes to Rs. 4.15 lakhs.

Ranni bridge

The Ranni bridge, 418 feet long, is across the Pamba river. It is about 12⅝ miles north east of Thiruvalla and 10⅜ miles south of Manimala. The bridge consists of 5 continuous R. C. girder spans, three central spans of 80 feet each, two spans of 68 feet each on either side of the above and two cantilevers of 20 feet each at both ends. The middle span includes a suspended span of 40 feet. The width of the roadway is 22′ and the slab-thickness is 7½″. There are three longitudinal girders placed at 9′ C|C with cross girders at supports. The total cost of construction comes to Rs. 5,45,200.

Vadasserikara bridge.

This bridge across Kallar river is in the 4th mile of Mannar-Kulanji-Chittar road which connects Sabarimalai, the pilgrim centre, the Muzhiyar and Kakki project areas. It is of the balanced cantilever type and has got 5 spans having one central span of 88′, two outer spans of 63′ and two land spans of 36′ 7½″. The suspended span is 48′ in length. The roadway has got a clear width of 22′ 0″ and is capable of carrying I.R.C. Class A two lane traffic. The bridge is founded on wells, and piers are of R.C.C. The over-all length of the bridge is 288′ and the cost is Rs. 3.00 lakhs which works out to an average of Rs. 1,045|Rft.

Velinallur bridge

This bridge across Ithikkara river is located in the 6th mile of Paripally-Oyoor road via Pakalkuri and is in front of the Velinallur temple. It is of the T-beam and slab type and has got a length of 162′ divided into 3 equal spans. The roadway has a clear width of 22′ and can carry I.R.C. Class A 2 lane loading. The foundation is of the open excavated type as rock was available on the river bed itself. The piers and abutments are with rubble masonry in cement mortar 1:5. The work was started in September, 1961 and the total cost is Rs. 2.3 lakhs which works out to a rate of Rs. 1,420|Rft.

Ferries.

There are 120 ferries in the District. These are maintained by the Quilon Division of the Public Works Department. The number of ferries in each of the Sub-Divisions is given below:

Sub-Division		Number of ferries
Adur	..	3
Karunagapally	..	13
Pathanamthitta	..	26
Punalur	..	13
Kottarakara	..	11
Quilon	..	54
Total	..	120

Transport by Air

There are no Airways or Aerodromes in this District. The nearest Aerodrome is at Trivandrum.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

Old time Rest Houses and Dharmasalas

In the past there were, in addition to the old *Uttupuras* and *Kanji* houses, inns or *Satrams* built for the convenience of travellers at convenient points on the main lines of communication. In Quilon there were such inns at such places as Kottarakara, Punalur, Edamon, Adur, Maruthurkulangara etc.

Travellers' Bungalows

There are at present 16 Rest Houses and Camp-Sheds in the District maintained by the Quilon P.W.D. In addition the Division also maintains a Camp-Shed and a Rest House at Courtalam in Shencottah Taluk in Madras State. A complete list of Rest Houses and Camp-Sheds maintained by the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads, Quilon, with such details as their location, amenities provided etc., is given in Appendix VII.

Apart from the Rest Houses and Camp-Sheds maintained by the Public Works Department there is a Tourist Bungalow maintained by the Tourist Department in Quilon Town. It is situated adjacent to the Ashtamudi lake. The Ashtamudi Boat Club is next to it and offers excellent opportunities for cruise along picturesque lakes and backwaters. The accommodation charges of the Quilon Tourist Bungalow are Rs. 6 per head per day for first class and Rs. 3 per head per day for second class.

Travel Agents

The Kerala Travels, the only travel agency in Kerala exclusively established for the promotion of travel and tourism, has a branch office located in the Musaliar Buildings, Chinnakada, Quilon. It renders all assistance to tourists by arranging transportation, guide service, hotel accommodation, sight-seeing tours etc. Air, rail and sea bookings are made to any part of the world. The Kerala Travels also arranges excursions for students and others. It has been recognised by the Government of Kerala, the International Air Transport Association and all the leading steamship companies. The headquarters of the agency is located in the Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

Before the introduction of the modern Indian Postal system by the British, the transmission of letters in the District was carried on under an indigenous postal system called the '*Anchal*'. A document of the year 965 K.E. (1790 A.D.) shows that at that time Travancore State was divided into two Anchal Divisions one extending from Thovala to Varkala and the other from Quilon to Parur each of which was under a *Melvicharippu* or Superintendent. Though the British Indian Postal system was first introduced in Travancore in 1857, the Quilon Post Office was opened in 1864. Telegraph Offices were also opened in the same year. Thus the local *Anchal* and the British Indian Postal system were functioning side by side. This arrangement continued till 1st April 1951 when the Anchal Department was merged with the Indian Postal Department. There is no separate Postal Division for Quilon Revenue District alone. The Quilon Postal Division which comprises of the Quilon and Alleppey Districts was formed on 1st December 1954. The total number of post offices in the Division at that time was 83 departmental offices and 197 branch offices. During the first and second Five Year Plan periods there has been a steady expansion of postal facilities. In January 1962 there were three Head Offices, 119 Divisional Sub-Offices and 449 Branch Offices in the Division. Of these one Head Office, 48 Sub-Offices and 235 Branch Offices were in the Quilon Revenue District.

All the postal transactions like acceptance of savings deposits, registration of articles, issue and payment of money orders etc. are carried out in all the Sub and Head Offices. In the

Branch Offices all transactions except savings bank and insurance facilities are carried out. In 25 post offices in Quilon Revenue District combined post and telegraph facilities are provided.

TELEPHONES

The Telephone system was introduced in Quilon in 1939-40 under the auspices of the Travancore Electricity Department. Initially a Central Battery system of 140 lines was installed. In 1950 a new Automatic Exchange of 500 lines capacity was installed. In the same year the Telephone system of the State was taken over by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department in the wake of the federal financial integration. After three stages of expansion the capacity of the Quilon Exchange had been brought up to 1,200 lines by May 1962. Due to the increased demand for telephones, another 300 lines are being added to it making the total number to 1,500 lines by the middle of 1963.

To cater to the needs of the rural areas a number of Public Call Offices and small Exchanges connected to the Quilon Exchange have been opened in various parts of the Quilon District. The statistics regarding the total number of connections, number of exchanges, number of public call offices etc., in Quilon District in April 1963 is given below:

1.	Total number of connections	..	1,492	
2.	Total number of extensions	..	166	
3.	Total number of Public Call Offices	..	59	
4.	No. of Exchanges (Automatic system)	..	9	(Adur, Pathanamthitta, Ranni, Quilon, Chavara Kundara, Kottarakkara Chathannur, Paravur)
5.	No. of Central Battery systems		3	(Punalur, Kozhenchery Attingal)

As for the plans for the extension of Telephone facilities, it may be noted that the Quilon Exchange is proposed to be extended to 2,000 lines in 1964-65. Automatic Exchanges are proposed to be opened at Pathanapuram, Anchal, Karunagapally, Thenmala, Kulathupuzha, East Kallada and Chadayamangalam in the course of 1963-64. Besides 4 long distance Public Call Offices (Nooranad, Parippally. Thevalakara and Koodal) are also scheduled to be opened in 1963-64. A ten position modern trunk exchange will also be installed at Quilon in the course of the year.

RADIO

The total number of Broadcast receiver licenses issued by Quilon Postal Division during the period from 1956-61 are furnished below:

1956-57	4,539
1957-58	5,414
1958-59	6,312
1959-60	7,492
1960-61	11,030

Organisations of Owners and Employees in the field of Transport and Communications

The most important labour unions of the Kerala State Transport Employees are:—(1) The Kerala State Transport Employees Union, (2) Ferry and Transport Workers Union, (3) Mechanical Workers Union, (4) Kerala State Transport Workers Union, (5) Kerala State Transport Staff Union and (6) Kerala State Transport Watch and Ward Association. The State Transport Employees in this District are active members of the Organisations mentioned above.

In the field of Private Motor Transport the notable employers' organisations are the Quilon District Taxi Owners Association, Quilon, and the Quilon District Private Bus Owners' Association, Quilon. The notable organisations of employees are the Quilon Taxi Drivers Association, the Quilon District Motor Transport Workers Union, Quilon, the Private Bus Services Staff Association, Quilon, the Paravur Private Motor Workers Union, Paravur, Quilon, the Pathanapuram Taluk Private Motor and Mechanical Workers Union, Punalur, the Kottarakara Private Motor and Mechanical Workers Union, Kottarakara, the Quilon Motor Drivers Union, Vadayattukotta, Quilon, the Pathanamthitta Taluk Private Motor and Mechanical Workers Congress, Ranni, and the Kunnathur Taluk Taxi and Transport Labour Congress. Adur.

The port workers and the employees in the motor boat service have also their organisations. The most important of them are the following:

1. The Akhila Thiruvithamcore Navikathozhilali Sanghom, Chavara.
2. The Cochi Thiruvithamcore Water Transport Thozhilali Union, Koilthottam.
3. The Port Workers Union, Karithura, Chavara.

4. Landing and Loading Workers Union, Quilon.
5. South Indian Navikathozhilali Union, Karithura, Chavara.
6. Kundara Landing and Loading Workers Union, Kundara.
7. Paravur Navikathozhilali Union, Maniamkulam.
8. Kerala Motor Boat Workers Union, Quilon.
9. Kallada Navikathozhilali Union, East Kallada,
10. Quilon Port Labour Union, Quilon.
11. Quilon District Navikathozhilali Union, Ashtamudi, Perinad.
12. Koilthottam Thuramughathozhilali Union, Karithura, Chavara.
13. Port Workers Congress, Quilon.

The Rickshaw pullers have a union of theirs in the Quilon Taluk—Rickshaw Thozhilali Union, Quilon.

There are also 8 unions in this District affiliated to the National Federation of Post and Telegraph Employees. They are:

1. All Indian Postal Employees Union Class III.
2. All India Postal Employees Union Postmen and Class IV.
3. All India Telegraph Engineering Employees' Union Class III.
4. All India Telegraph Engineering Employees' Union Line Staff and Class IV.
5. All India R.M.S. Employees Union Class III.
6. All India R.M.S. Employees Union Mail-guards and Class III.
7. All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Class III.
8. All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Class IV.

There is also a branch of the South Indian Railway Employees Sangh functioning with headquarters at Quilon with jurisdiction over the lines from Trivandrum to Punalur and Quilon to Ernakulam. The Railway Employees run a Co-operative Stores at Quilon.

APPENDIX—I

Classified list of Roads in Quilon District

Sl. No.	Name of road	Length		
		Mile	Furlong	Feet
I.	*National High Ways* :			
1.	T. Q. Road 29/2 to 43/0	13	6	0
2.	Q. A. Road 2/5 to 5/2	2	5	0
3.	Do. 5/2 to 20/5	15	1	0
	Total	31	4	0
II.	*West Coast Roads within Municipality*:			
1.	T. Q. Road 43/0 to 43/8	1	0	0
2.	Road from D. S. P. Office junction to Chinnakada	0	4	0
3.	Q. A. Road	3	0	0
	Total	4	4	0
III.	*Provincial Highways* :			
1.	Q. S. Road 0/0 to 51/0	51	0	0
2.	M. C. Road 27/0 to 61/0	34	0	0
3.	T. S. Road miles 27/0 to 46/0	19	0	0
4.	Kayamkulam-Punalur road miles 12/0 to 15/4 and 16/6 to 35	20	6	0
5.	Pathanapuram-Ranni road 0/0 to 24/2	24	2	0
6.	Kumbazha-Kozhencherry road	10	0	0
7.	Manimala-Ranni road (last portion)	5	4	0
8.	Chengannur-Kozhencherry road portion from Aranmula to Kozhencherry	1	5	0
	Total	166	1	0
IV.	*Quilon Town Roads*:			
1.	Quilon Town roads	0	6	158
2.	Do.	8	0	65
3.	Road from Kadappakada to Small-pox Hospital	0	5	0
4.	T. Q. Road 43/8 to 44/3	0	4	0
5.	Road opened by Thomas Stephen & Co.	1	0	0
6.	Quilon Town roads	16	0	566
7.	Flag Staff road—Tangasseri	0	4	370
	Total	27	4	499
V.	*District Roads* :			
1.	Road from Anchalumood to N. S. S. School, Prakulam	2	3	0
2.	Quilon-Elamballur road	8	0	0
3.	Chathannur-Paravur road	6	0	0
4.	Paravur-Paripally road	6	3	0
5.	Ayur-Ithikara road 10/4 to 14/7	4	3	0
6.	Paripally-Madathara road 0/0 to 1/6	1	6	0

APPENDIX—I (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	Name of road	Length		
		Mile	Furlong	Feet
7.	Vadakkekara-Kundara road (Kottiyam-Kundara road)	7	3	0
8.	Road from 38th mile T. Q. road to 3/1 Vadakkekara road (Kottiyam-Kundara road)	2	2	0
9.	Quilon-Ayur road up to Kannanallur	5	4	40
10.	Kottiyam-Mayyanad road	3	2	0
11.	C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer road	1	2	0
12.	Kundara-Chittumala road	4	0	0
13.	Road from N. S. S. English High School, Prakulam to Sambranikodi	2	2	0
14.	Oachira-Ayiramthengu road	3	0	400
15.	Puthentheruvu-Thurayil road	2	4	0
16.	Padanayarkulangara-Sasthamcottah road	6	0	0
17.	Kulasekharapuram-Chakkuvally road	4	7	0
18.	Karunagapally-Maruthurkulangara road	2	4	0
19.	Sasthamcotta-Pattakadavu road	2	0	0
20.	Chavara-Pattakadavu road	5	3	0
21.	Road from Kannettil via., Thevalakara to meet Chavara-Pattakadavu road	3	5	0
22.	Anchal-Punalur road	7	2	0
23.	Punalur Paper Mills Road	1	2	0
24.	Chemmanthur Railway Station road	0	4	0
25.	Yerur-Edamon road	9	2	0
26.	Punalur-Shalikara road	4	1	220
27.	Ettappadappu road	9	0	0
28.	Hereford Estate road	6	0	0
29.	Shendurney Estate road	5	0	0
30.	Ayur-Kulathupuzha road	16	2	0
31.	Devaswom road connecting Pattazhi with 54th mile of M. C. road 0/0 to 2/0	2	0	0
32.	Avaneeswaram-Pathanapuram road	5	1	0
33.	Road from 32nd mile Kayamkulam-Punalur road to Kamukumcherry	3	0	0
34.	Kottarakara-Velinallur road including Loop road	9	4	0
35.	Kottarakara-Sasthamcottah road	1	0	0
36.	Ayur-Ithikara road	6	0	0
37.	Ayur-Ithikara road	5	0	0
38.	Chadayamangalam-Pallickal road	6	0	0
39.	Parippally-Madathara road	14	0	0
40.	Road from Kummil to Kadakkal	3	0	0
41.	Road from 8/1 Vamanapuram	2	4	0
42.	Kottarakara-Sasthamcottah road	6	4	0
43.	Puthur-Yenadi road	4	4	0
44.	Adur-Sasthamcottah road 0/0 to 11/4	11	4	0
45.	Sasthamcottah-Thamarakulam road 0/0 to 7/0	7	0	0

APPENDIX—I (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	*Name of road*	*Length*		
		Mile	*Furlong*	*Feet*
46.	Kottarakara-Sasthamcottah road from Kunnathur ferry	3	1	0
47.	Kadakkad-Kaipattur road	1	5	0
48.	Sasthamcottah-Pattakadavu road	1	0	0
49.	Karalimukku-Kadavazha road	3	2	0
50.	Kulasekharapuram-Chackuvally road 5/0 to 8/0	3	0	0
51.	Adur-Thumpamon road 0/0 to 3/0	3	0	0
52.	Adur-Pattazhi road 0/0 to 5/0	5	0	0
53.	Anandapally-Kaipattur road mile 0/0 to 4/4	4	4	0
54.	Ezhamkulam-Kaipattur road 0/0 to 6/6	6	6	0
55.	Chandanapally-Koodal road 0/0 to 7/4	7	4	0
56.	Rajagiri Estate road	5	0	0
57.	Road from 53rd mile M. C. road to Pattazhi (Yenadi-Pattazhi road 0/0 to 2/0)	2	0	0
58.	Kadakad-Kaipattur road (last portion)	1	4	0
59.	Konni-Estate road 1/2 contribution	3	4	0
60.	Anandapally-Kaipattur road	4	4	0
61.	Kavanal-Rajampara road	10	4	0
62.	Kaipattur-Pathanamthitta road	3	5	0
63.	Omallur-Pariyaram road	4	6	0
64.	Pandalam-Omallur road	3	3	0
65.	Mannarkulanji-Kozhencherry road	9	4	0
66.	Chandanapally-Konni road	7	6	0
67.	Mannarkulanji-Chittar road portion from Kavanal to Chittar	9	2	0
68.	Ezhamkulam-Kaipattur road	1	6	0
69.	Thumpamon-Pariyaram	0	5	0
70.	Vennikulam-Ranni road	2	0	0
71.	Ranni Branch road	4	4	0
72.	Chethacal-Noorocad road	7	0	0
73.	Approach road to Valiya thodu bridge	0	1	330
	Total	350	0	350

APPENDIX—II

Details of roads which either take off from or cross the National Highway

Sl. No.	Mile	Name of road	Length (Miles)
		A—Trivandrum-Quilon Road	
1.	30/4	Paravur-Paripally road branching left	6 3/8
2.	30/4	Madathara road branching right	20 3/4
3.	32/2	Kalluvathukkal-Meenambalam road branching left	2
4.	32/2	Kalluvathukkal-Aduthala road branching right	2 8/5
5.	33/4	Meenad Public road to Kalluvathukkal branching left	2 5/8
6.	35/3	Chathannur public road to Kummallur branching right	1 1/2
7.	35/7	Chathannur-Paravur road branching left	6
8.	36/6	Ayur-Ithikara road branching right	14 7/8
9.	37/2	Road to Kannanellur branching right	2 1/4
10.	38/4	Kottiyam-Ottapilammood road branching left	1 1/4
11.	38/5	Kottiyam-Kundara road branching right	7 3/8
12.	38/5	Kottiyam-Mayyanad road branching left	3 1/4
13.	40/8	Thattamala-Kottikad road branching left	1 2/8
14.	41/8	Eravipuram road branching left	1 3/4
15.	41/8	Kollurvila-Ayathil road branching right	1 3/8
		B—Quilon-Alleppey Road.	
1.	2/5	Ramankulangara-Marathadi road branching left	1 3/4
2.	5/3	Lane leading to Factory N. A. P. right	
3.	7/7	Road to T. M. P. Ltd. No. III left	
4.	8/2	Chavara bridge of span 144' width 20' constructed in 1951 by T. C. P. W. D. over Chavara canal	
5.	9/1	Branch road to Kottukad junction (gravelled) right	1 3/4
6.	9/3	Lane to Block Office right	0 3/8
7.	9/6	Chavara-Koilthottam road metalled left	0 5/8
8.	10/2	Chavara-Pattakadavu road turns right (metalled and tarred)	5 3/8
9.	10/4	Road to Kottarakadavu turns left (gravelled)	1
10.	11/1	Edapallycotta to Balabhatakeswaram road starts right (metalled)	1 1/4
11.	12/3	Kuttivattom-Arinallur road-turns right (metalled)	3 5/8
12.	13/2	Road to Pandakasala lake turns right (metalled)	1 3/8
13.	13/4	Kannettil bridge over Vattakayal	
14.	13/5	Sreevardhanapuram market road turns left	
15.	14/0	Lalaji road turns left	2 1/2
16.	14/1	Sreeramavarmapuram market road turns right	
		Post office and sanitary circle office on the right	0 1/2
17.	14/4	Karunagapally Bus stand	
		Kallummoottil kadavu road turns left	2 1/2
		Padanayarkulangara-Sasthamcottah road starts on the right (2 miles semi-grouted balance metalled and gravelled)	6
		Karunagapally Camp-shed and market 2 furlongs east of Public Office junction and Karunagapally railway station 1 1/4 miles east	

APPENDIX—II (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Mile	Name of road	Length (Miles)
18.	14/6	Karunagapally-Maruthurkulangara road turns left	2 1/2
19.	15/4	Block headquarters road turns right	1
20.	15/7	Puthiakavu temple. There is a T. B. Clinic with an Isolation ward about a furlong east of Puthiakavu junction. Kulasekharapuram.	
		Chackuvally road turns right. Electrical J. E.'s office and Sub-station and sub-Registrar's office	8
21.	16/0	Alappad backwaters road branches left (gravelled)	2 1/4
22.	16/4	Puthentheruvu-Thurayil Kadavu road left (gravelled)	2 1/2
23.	17/5	Vavakavu-Vallikavu road turns left (metalled)	2 1/2
24.	17/6	Vavakavu-Thazhava road turns right (gravelled)	4
25.	18/2	Road from Changamkulangara to Vallikavu turns left	0 1/2
26.	18/4	Road from Changamkulangara to Vallikunnam turns right	1 1/2
27.	19/2	Road from Pallimukku to Manjadimukku turns left	1
28.	19/4	Road from Kunjanadikulam to Madathil Karma turns right (gravelled)	2 1/4
29.	20/1	Road from Oachira to Railway Station turns right. Road from Oachira to Ayiramthengu turns left (metalled)	3
30.	20/2	Oachira temple on the left	
31.	N. H. Way 20/3	Boundary of the District.	

APPENDIX III

Statement showing the details of Private owned passenger services operating in Quilon District

Sl. No.	Name of route	No. of buses for which permits were in force on 1-4-1961	No. of round trips sanctioned	Distance of the route Miles	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
1	Sakthikulangara-Karikodu	8	64	9	Town services in Quilon as declared by the R.T.A., Quilon
2	Thirumullavaram-Mangad	1	11	7	
3	Eravipuram-Tangasseri	4	40	6	
4	Kottiyam-Tangasseri	2	18	8	
5	Kottiyam-Chamakada	1	9	7	
6	Kottiyam-Marathady	1	6	12	
7	Eravipuram-Marathady	1	8	9	
8	Quilon-Mayyanad	2	20	7 1/2	
9	Quilon-Kottiyam	1	8	9	
10	Quilon-Puthur	1	4	16	
11	Quilon-Varkala	2	1	30	
12	Kavanad-Chalapurathukadavu	1	4	20	
13	Karikodu-Neendakara	1	7	12	
14	Koilthottam-Karikodu	1	6	15	
15	Paravur-Kundara	1	4	15	
16	Paravur-Kallada	1	3	22	
17	Quilon-Kallada	5	26	18	
18	Quilon-Neduvankavu	2	8	18	
19	Quilon-Odanavattom	2	6	23	
20	Quilon-Madathara	2	1	43	
21	Quilon-Kulathupuzha	3	5	45	
22	Quilon-Paravur	2	7	20	
23	Quilon-Anchal	1	3	30	
24	Quilon-Ayur	1	3	25	
25	Quilon-Ranni	3	3	52 1/2	
26	Kottayathukadavu-Kundara	2	16	8	
27	Kottayathukadavu-Neduvankavu	1	4	18	
28	Kottayathukadavu-Paracode	1	3	27	
29	Kottayathukadavu-Perumon	1	13	5	
30	Kottayathukadavu-Koduvila	1	4	17	
31	Chavara-Pathanamthitta	5	10	35 1/2	
32	Chavara-Paracode	5	15	23 1/2	
33	Chavara-Pattazhi	1	2	30 1/2	
34	Koilthottam-Adur	1	3	20 1/2	
35	Koilthottam-Thurayilkadavu	1	6	14	
36	Thekkumbhagom-Thurayilkadavu	1	4	18	
37	Alumkadavu-Paracode	2	6	22	

APPENDIX—III (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of route	No. of buses for which permits were in force on 1-4-1961	No. of round trips sanctioned	Distance of the route Miles
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
38	Karunagapally-Kottarakara	1	3	22
39	Vallikavu-Pathanamthitta	1	2	38
40	Oachira-Kadapuzha	2	8	18
41	Oachira-Bharanikavu	1	4	14 1/2
42	Karunagapally-Mavelikara	1	3	21 1/2
43	Oachira-Pattazhi	1	2	29
44	Adur-Ranni	2	6	25
45	Adur-Vadasserikara	1	3	22
46	Adur-Pothmanmoozhy	1	3	24
47	Chengannur-Ranni	1	2	28
48	Thattarambalam-Ranni	1	2	32
49	Punalur-Ranni	6	12	36
50	Punalur-Vadasserikara	1	2	34
51	Pathanapuram-Kozhencherry	1	3	24
52	Punalur-Mundakayam	1	1	72
53	Chengannur-Lahai	2	4	37
54	Pathanamthitta-Chengara	1	4	12
55	Chengannur-Chengara	1	2	30
56	Pathanapuram-Ranni	1	3	28
57	Pathanamthitta-Ranni	1	4	12
58	Pathanamthitta-Erumeli	1	3	22
59	Pathanamthitta-Chittar	4	12	20
60	Pandalam-Chittar	2	4	30
61	Changanacherry-Chittar	1	1	45
62	Pathanamthitta-Lahai	1	3	20
63	Kozhencherry-Perunad	1	3	24 1/2
64	Kozhencherry-Chittar	1	3	28
65	Pathanamthitta-Chengannur	1	4	16
66	Pandalam-Kadambanitta	1	5	12
67	Pathanamthitta-Kalleli	1	7	11
68	Pandalam-Kozhencherry	1	3	20
69	Ranni-Erumeli	2	3	20
70	Punalur-Madathara	1	3	25
71	Chengannur-Ayur	5	5	52
72	Punalur-Kadakkal	3	9	20
73	Pattakadavu-Karthigapally	1	2	34
74	Punalur-Kulathupuzha	3	6	22
75	Mallapally-Kulathupuzha	1	1	62

APPENDIX III—(Contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of route	No. of buses for which permits were in force on 1-4-1961	No. of round trips sanctioned	Distance of the route Miles
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
76	Punalur-Chathannur	1	2	31
77	Punalur-Oyur	1	4	18
78	Madathara-Kottarakara	2	4	34
79	Kottarakara-Chathannur	3	9	18
80	Kottarakara-Oyur	1	5	11
81	Kayamkulam-Oyur	2	4	36
82	Puthur-Oyur	3	9	17
83	Chathannur-Madathara	1	2	34
84	Paravur-Madathara	2	6	27
85	Kottarakara-Kunnathur	1	8	7
86	Kayamkulam-Kulathupuzha	2	2	57
87	Chavara-Pandalam	1	2	34
88	Ranni-Vechoochira	1	7	9
89	Kottayathukadavu-Puthur	1	5	16
90	Kottayathukadavu-Pathanamthitta	1	2	41
91	Konni-Quilon	2	2	52
92	Paracode-Chanthannur	2	4	36
93	Arattupuzhakadavu-Kottayathukadavu	1	2	32
94	Edamon-Channapetta	1	4	18
95	Paravur-Ayur	2	6	21
96	Channapetta-Punalur	1	4	12
97	Channapetta-Chadakara	1	3	16
98	Quilon-Kadakkal	1	2	35

APPENDIX—IV

Statement of services operated by State Transport Department -Quilon

Sl. No.	*Name of route*	*Route distance Mile*
	Quilon District	
1	Quilon- Kottiyam	6
2	,, Trivandrum Circular	104.3
3	,, Chathannur	9
4	,, Kalluvathukkal	12
5	,, Paripally	14
6	,, Pakalkuri	17
7	,, Attingal	23
8	,, Kundara	8
9	,, Kumbalam	12
10	,, Ezhukone	12
11	,, Kottarakara	17
12	,, Punalur	28
13	,, Shencottah	58
14	,, Chavara	9
15	,, Edapallycottah	13
16	,, Karunagapally	15.5
17	,, Oachira	21
18	,, Kayamkulam	24
19	,, Mavelikara	31
20	,, Alleppey	53
21	,, Alleppey via Mavelikara (Circular)	113
22	,, Ernakulam	92
23	,, Kottayam (Circular)	131.5
24	,, Prakkulam	8
25	,, Velimon	9.5
	Kottarakara District	
1	Kottarakara- Trivandrum (Circular)	104.3
2	,, Ayur	10
3	,, Valakom	6
4	,, Quilon	17
5	,, Punalur	11
6	,, Kundara	9
7	,, Kaldurthy	27
8	Punalur-Kaldurthy	16
9	Kunnicode-Kaldurthy	21
10	Kundara-Punalur	20
11	Kottarakara-Urukunnu	20
12	Quilon-Urukunnu	37
13	Punalur-Urukunnu	9
14	Kottarakara-Shencottah	41
15	Shencottah-Punalur	30
16	Kundara-Pattazhi	23
17	Pattazhi-Quilon	25
18	Kottarakara-Kottayam	50
19	Kottarakara-Chengannur	28
20	Quilon-Punalur	28
21	Kottarakara-Pandalam	19
22	Chengannur-Pandalam	9
23	Kottarakara-Kozhencherry	33
24	Pandalam-Kozhencherry	14
25	Kottarakara-Pattazhi-Kunnicode	16
26	Kottarakara-Pattazhi (Circular)	22
27	Kottarakara-Chackuvarackal	7
28	Kottarakara-Kokad	9
29	Kunnicode-Urukunnu	14

APPENDIX V

Railway Stations in Quilon District 1959-60

Name of Station	*Distance between Stations in Kilo Metres*	*No. of passengers booked*	*Tonnage of Goods (Mds)*	
			Inwards	*Outwards*
Shencottah-Trivandrum Central Section.				
Ariankavu	8	15,030	61	31,505
Thenmala (W)	13	22,922	48,814	..
Edamon	13	18,396	1,382	128,792
Punalur	9	124,586	421,796	558,088
Avaneeswaram	8	46,567	9,315	85,357
Kottarakara (W)	12	82,874	269,665	143,868
Ezhukone	7	22,354	219	170
Kundara	5	76,946	297,172	277,058
Kilikollur	7	35,024	2,361	4,346
Quilon (W) (VL)	5	664,455	4,889,758	2,641,996
Valathungal Halt	..	38,818	..	..
Mayyanad	9	128,962	126	1,427
Paravur	4	286,773	691	2,534
Quilon-Ernakulam Section.				
Quilon (Start)	..	..	..	..
Perinad	9	52,888	12	90
Sasthamcottah	11	56,569	27	52
Karunagapally	7	34,729	623	195
Oachira	8	40,594	18	52

W=Waiting Room.

VL=Vegetarian Light Refreshment Room

APPENDIX VI

Important Stations on the Canal Routes in the Quilon District and the distance between them.

Name of Station		*Mileage*
I. TRIVANDRUM-SHORANUR CANAL (31 Miles)		
Paravur	..	28th
Eravipuram	..	36th
Quilon	..	40th to 41st
Quilon Jetty	..	do.
Kottayyathikadavu Jetty	..	41st
Manooth Jetty	..	42nd
Aravila	..	42nd to 43rd
Sambranikody	..	43rd to 44th
Pallikody	..	45th to 46th
Chavara	..	47th to 48th
Chavara bridge	..	48 3/8th
Koilthottam	..	49th
Kottarakadavu	..	50th
Panickerkadavu (opposite Cheriyazhikkal)	..	52nd to 53rd
Alumkadavu	..	53rd to 54th
Attilkadavu	..	54th to 55th
Thurayilkadavu	..	55th to 56th
Vallikavu	..	56th to 57th
Srayikkad	..	57th to 58th
Ayiramthengu	..	58th to 59th
II. QUILON-PATTAKADAVU (12 Miles)		
Parakulam Jetty	..	6th
Ashtamudi	..	8th
Koilvila	..	10th
Arinallur	..	10th to 11th
Pattakadavu	..	12th
III. QUILON-KADAPUZHA (16 Miles)		
Muthiraparambu	..	14th
Kadapuzha	..	16th

APPENDIX—VII

List of Rest Houses, Travellers' Bungalows, etc., Quilon

Sl. No.	Name	Place	Location	Nearest Railway station and the distance from it	By whom maintained	Class to which it belongs	Rates charged	Nature of accommodation and facilities provided	Remarks
1	Rest House	Quilon	Left side of Q. S Road. 0/1 and north Rly skew bridge	2 1/2 fgs. from Quilon Rly Station	Public Works Dept	I Class	Double room 2.50 per day Single room 1.50 per day (vegetarian kitchen)	Water Supply. flush out, sanitary installations & electricity provided. Catering provided if required	Rate charged to Govt. officers on duty will vary according to pay
2	Additional Govt. House	do.	On the side of the road from Govt. House to small bridge & north side of BOC Quilon Depot	4 1/2 fgs from Quilon Rly. Station & 2 fgs. from Rly. skew bridge (road from Rly. Skew bridge to Govt. House)	do.	do.	Rs. 2.50 per day	do.	do.
3	Rest House	Kottarakara	Near the Taluk Office	1/2 mile from Kottarakara Rly. Station	do.	II do.	Rs. 1 50 per day	Catering not provided	do.
4	Campshed	Madathara	1/2 a mile from Madathara junction 31/3 Trivandrum-Shencottah road	15 miles from Thenmala Rly. Station	do.	do.	Re. 1 per day	do. & non-electrified	do.
5	do.	Nilamel	1/2 a mile from 25th mile M. C. road	Kottarakara Rly. Station 18 1/4 miles	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.

6	do.	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta town by the road joining 3/2 Kaipattur-Pathanamthitta road and 1/7 Kumbazha-Kozhencherry road	Chengannur Rly. Station 14 miles	do.	do.	Rs. 1.50 per day	Catering not provided	do.
7	do.	Kozhencherry	Kozhencherry town by the side of Kumbazha-Kozhencherry road	Thiruvalla Rly. Station 10 miles	do.	do.	do.	do. & sanitary fittings not available	do.
8	do.	Ranni	Ranni town near Police Station	Chengannur Rly. Station 24 1/2 miles	do.	do.	do.	Catering not provided	do.
9	Rest House	Punalur	One fg. from the Bus Station Quilon-Shencottah road 28/2	One mile from Punalur Rly. Station	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
10	do	Pathanapuram	Kayamkulam-Punalur road 27/2	9 miles from Punalur Rly. Station	do.	do.	Re. 1 per day	do. & non-electrified, sanitary fittings not available	do.
11	do.	Kulathupuzha	16/1 Ayur-Kulathupuzha road	7 miles from Thenmala Rly. Station	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
12	Campshed	Ayur	0/4 Ayur-Kulathupuzha road	12 1/2 miles from Punalur Rly. Station	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
13	do.	Ariankavu	5th mile of Quilon-Shencottah road	1/2 mile from Ariankavu Rly. Station	so.	do.	do.	do.	do.

APPENDIX—VII (*Contd.*)

Sl No	*Name*	*Place*	*Location*	*Nearest Railway station and the distance from it*	*By whom maintained*	*Class to which it belongs*	*Rates charged*	*Nature of accommodation and facilities provided*	*Remarks*
14	Rest House	Adur	About 7 fgs. off leading from 18th mile stone on Kayamkulam-Pathanapuram road	About 15 miles north of Kottarakara Rly. Station	do.	do.	do.	Non-electrified catering not provided	do.
15	Campshed	Sasthamcottah	0/4 of Sasthamcottah-Pattakadavu road right side	2 1/2 miles from Sasthamcottah Rly. Station	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
16	do.	Karunagapally	0/2 of Padanayarkulangara-Sasthamcottah road and just behind Public Market	Karunagapally Rly. Station 1 mile	do·	do.	Re. 1 .50 per day	Sanitary fittings not available—catering not provided	do.
17	Special Campshed	Courtalam	Courtalam-Tenkasi road	2 1/2 miles from Tenkasi Rly. Station	do.	I class	Main block Rs. 6 each block. Secretary's quarters Rs.3.50 each Office room Re. 1.50 each	Catering not provided	do.
18	Palace building	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Main block Rs. 10 each. Office quarters Rs. 3	do.	do.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

A fairly good percentage of the population of the Quilon District is engaged in public administration, learned professions, and domestic and personal services. Being the headquarters of the District many important State Government offices and a few Central Government offices are located in Quilon town. Out of the 8 Colleges of the District 5 are located here. The only Polytechnic of the District, Sri Narayana Polytechnic, Kottiyam, is situated only 5 miles south of Quilon town. Quilon is also the only Municipality of the District. It is therefore only natural that a large number of people are employed in public administration and learned professions. The tailors, barbers, washermen and domestic servants are some of the occupational classes who depend on those engaged in public administration and learned professions for their livelihood. The exact figures of persons employed in these miscellaneous occupations are not however readily available as the census data of 1951 pertain to the old Quilon District. But a rough idea can be had from the 1951 census figures of persons engaged in "Other Services and Miscellaneous Sources" in some of the important towns of the Quilon District. The following table gives the number of persons of the above category in Quilon Municipality and other Taluk headquarters.

Persons who earn their livelihood from other Services and Miscellaneous sources. [1]
1951

	Males.	*Females.*
Quilon	8,944	8,522
Kottarakara	1,562	1,383
Punalur	1,890	1,525
Pathanamthitta	897	758
Adur	1,230	1,179
Karunagapally	949	888

1 The figures given include those of public employees also.

Public Administration

The quarterly reports on employment in the Public Sector in Kerala issued by the Directorate of National Employment Service throw some light on the number of public employees in the District. The report for the quarter ending 30th September 1961 shows that 19,644 persons were employed in public services in Quilon. These include employees of State and Central Government offices and local bodies. The Quilon Municipality alone had under it 320 employees. It is worth mentioning that women account for about 16% of the total public sector employment. The number of persons employed in public services has been continually on the increase owing to the steady expansion of governmental activities under the Five Year Plans. As in other States and other Districts of Kerala the majority of the public employees belong to the lower and middle income groups. Though the public employees form only a very small percentage of the total population of the District, they play a significant role in the economic and social life of the District by virtue of their educational background and technical skill. But it is to be mentioned that daily labourers, factory workers and other employees in the public sector play a no less significant role in the life of the District.

The special amenities provided to public employees are more or less on the same pattern in all Districts. Government servants are given facilities for recreation in out-door and in-door games so that they may keep themselves active and healthy. They are also given assistance in forming co-operative societies for their own benefit. They are given help in organising canteens too. The problem of accommodation is very difficult in certain places of the District. Hence loans are given to the employees for constructing their own houses. In Quilon the policemen and railway employees are given quarters. Some of the State Government servants including N.G.Os are given accommodation in Government buildings in Quilon. The public employees of the District have formed their own organisations, e.g., the Law Graduate N.G.O. (Non-Gazetted Officers) Association, Quilon, Kerala Lower Grade Government Services Association, Quilon, the All Kerala Typists and Stenographers Association, Quilon Unit, the Kerala Social Education Organiser's Association Quilon, the Village Employees Association Quilon, etc. etc. The Quilon Municipal Worker's Union

and Quilon Local Bodies and Contigency Worker's Union are two of the organisations of employees of local bodies in the District.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS.

Teachers

The teachers play an important role in the life of the District. In 1961 there were on the whole 10,461 teachers in Quilon. Of this 354 were employed in Colleges and the S.N. Polytechnic Kottiyam, Quilon. The remaining were employed in Government and private schools. The number of male teachers was 6,266 and female teachers 3,841. The teachers in Government and private schools get almost equal emoluments and are paid from the Government treasury. The conditions of service of the private school teachers which were quite unsatisfactory a few years ago have improved considerably in recent times. In certain respects, the private school teacher is better off than his counterpart in Government schools. The former is not prevented from taking part in active politics while the latter being a government servant has to eschew all politics. Moreover, the private school teacher generally works in a school adjacent to his house and this helps him to cut down his expenses. The Government school teacher enjoys no such privilege being liable to frequent transfer. The school teachers of all categories have their own organisations which work for the improvement of their prospects. The most important of such organisations are the Kerala Government Primary School Teachers Association, Departmental Graduate Teachers Association, Quilon, T.C. Arabic Munshies Association, Quilon, Departmental Special Teachers Association, Quilon, Pial School Teachers Association, Quilon, and the Akhila Kerala Kudipallikudam Asans Sanghom, Pathanamthitta. The private college teachers of the District are also well organised, and both in 1961 and 1962 they took the lead in sponsoring a State-wide strike of private college teachers with a view to getting some of their grievances redressed at the hands of the Government and the Managements.

Doctors

Doctors and physicians are in great demand throughout the District and in almost every locality there is a Dispensary

or a *Vaidyasala*. The Registrar of Medical Councils, Kerala State, keeps the list of names of Registered Medical Practitioners, but as it is prepared in alphabetical order the number of medical practitioners for each District is not readily available. The report of the District Medical Officer shows that there are fifty-eight doctors employed in the Government Hospitals and Dispensaries in the District. The Quilon branch of the Indian Medical Association which was established in 1118 K.E. (1942-43) had 49 members on its rolls in 1962. In the Ayurvedic shops there are *Vaidyans*, Ayurvedic Compounders and other Ayurvedic Workers. While the *Vaidyans* diagnose different kinds of ailments and prescribe appropriate remedies, the Compounders make up the prescribed medicines and workers help in making various Ayurvedic preparations. Government have fixed Rs. 65 as minimum wage for *Vaidyans*, Rs. 50 for Ayurvedic Compounders and Rs. 40 for the Ayurvedic workers. The Ayurvedic physicians have formed some associations of their own in order to safeguard their professional interests. The Departmental Physicians Association is an organisation of Ayurvedic Physicians employed under the Government. The D.I.M. (Diploma in Indigenous Medicine) Association, the D.A.M. (Diploma in Ayurvedic Medicine) Association, the Kerala Grant Vaidya Sanghom, the Kerala Ayurveda Mandalam, and the Kerala Ayurvedic Congress are some of the other associations in the field which have members on their rolls from among the physicians of this District.

Lawyers

Though there is no Law College in Quilon, the lawyer element is dominant in the public life of the District. In 1961 there were altogether 285 legal practitioners. Out of this 224 were authorised to practise in the High Court. Besides many law graduates are employed in the various departments of the Government. The law graduate non-Gazetted officers have even an association of their own. The freedom of the legal profession enables the lawyers to play a significant role in all spheres of life and activity. The remuneration the lawyers derive from their profession and the status they enjoy depend to a great extent on their own abilities and talents. Associated with the legal profession are the document writers and Vakil's clerks. The former have an association of their own called the Document Writers Association, Quilon.

Engineers

In the implementation of the Plan schemes and the economic development of the District the Engineers play a decisive role. The T.K.M. College of Engineering, Kilikollur, which is the premier technical institution in Quilon, contributes its share in enriching the engineering profession in the State. In this District in 1961-62 there were altogether 69 Engineers employed in the Electricity Board, the Department of Public Health Engineering and the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation sections of the P.W.D. In addition there were a few engineers working in the Kallada Valley scheme and Irrigation Sub-division, Adur. It may also be noted that about 20 qualified Engineers are on the teaching staff of the Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering and 10 engineering degree or diploma holders on the teaching staff of S. N. Polytechnic, Kottiyam. Some departments of Government other than the P.W.D. and a few private factories also employ engineers. The Engineers employed in the Government Departments and those employed in the Electricity Board have formed associations of their own to protect their interests. The Association of Engineers, Kerala State is the representative association of the former and the engineers working in the Government Departments in Quilon District are its members. The engineers of the Electricity Board are members of the Kerala State Electricity Board Engineers Association.

Journalists

The number of Working Journalists in Quilon District would come to about 30, and almost all of them are members of the Kerala Union of Working Journalists.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

The persons engaged in domestic and personal services include domestic servants, cooks, washermen, barbers, tailors etc. Each of these occupational classes has its own place in the economic and social life of the District.

Domestic Servants

Rich families employ two, three or more domestic servants and a majority of the middle class families have at least one. A domestic servant may sometimes be of service to many families of the lower middle class since each such family may find it difficult to employ a full-time servant. A

striking feature of the domestic servants is that a majority of them are women. We may also note that female members of poor families who are not prepared to work as domestic servants in public will go to the neighbouring houses and offer their services apparently not as domestic servants. Their services will be welcomed especially by those families which are really in need of servants, but which do not have the resources to employ them. In rural areas this practice is very common and often it assumes the nature of mutual help. The domestic servants have no uniform rates of wages. However, they may get between Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per mensem. Of course, better and reliable servants may get higher wages, but boys do not generally get as much as the elders. The fact that the domestic servants get their wages in addition to food and shelter should be borne in mind. Expert cooks and servants employed in hotels and restaurants get higher wages, but strictly speaking they do not come under the category of domestic servants.

Barbers

The traditional barbers called Ambattans and the Vilakkithala Nairs were at one time indispensable to the Hindu community. Religious ceremonies, rituals etc. required their presence in the Hindu home. Every family, both Hindu and Muslim, had its family barbers. The barbers used to visit the houses of their customers and they were paid in kind. They also used to get clothes and paddy on important days of the year. But this old practice has died out, and barber shops have now been established both in the urban and rural parts of the District. The barbers are also now paid in cash. Some of them still attend to their clients (especially rich and influential persons) at their houses, even if they have their own barber shops. In the smaller barber shops the owners themselves work assisted sometimes by their relatives. But in the bigger ones the owner may employ paid workers and the bulk of the work is done by the employees under his supervision and guidance. The employees get either an agreed part of the amount charged for every service rendered by them or monthly wages. In urban areas like Quilon the charge for an hair cut is 50 nP. and that for a shave varies from 15 nP. to 19 nP. In villages the charge for an hair cut is 30, or 37 nP. and that for a shave 12 nP. According to the findings of the Minimum Wages Committee for Shops and Establishments

(1960) the monthly wages of barbers employed in Barber shops in Quilon town varied from Rs. 45 to Rs. 90, in Punalur from Rs. 45 to 75 and in Kundara from Rs. 30 to Rs. 55. Government have since fixed Rupees 50 as the minimum wage for barbers employed in shops. It may be noted that people in the villages get the barbers of their respective communities for service. Barbers in the District have also their own organizations, eg., the Kollam Taluk Barbers Association, Quilon, Pathanamthitta Taluk Saloon workers Union, Chittar and Pathanapuram Taluk Barber Thozhilali Union, Anchal. There is also a caste organisation of the barbers in this District, viz., Kerala Vilakkithala Nair Society, Quilon.

Washermen

The washermen or the Veluthedans as they are called constitute an important section among those who are engaged in miscellaneous occupations. Even after the emergence of laundries both in towns and villages the washermen collect clothes from houses, though a few who get plenty of work even otherwise receive them only in their laundries. But the old practice of paying the dhobi in kind has now practically disappeared. Washing of clothes is usually done on the banks of streams, canals, rivers and ponds and ironing in the laundries or in the houses of the washermen, if they do not have laundries. Almost all the washermen get the work done by the members of their family. Only in towns a few of them engage workers to assist them. The Government have now fixed Rs. 45 as the minimum wage for the Washermen and Ironing workers employed in laundries. The rate charged for washing hundred pieces of clothes is about Rs. 10, but in some cases it may rise to 12 nP. per piece. However the charge is much higher for urgent washing, the actual rate depending on the number of days within which the clothes may have to be returned. For decorations in connection with marriages or celebrations the dhobi usually gives clothes on rent. Of course the clothes are not their own, but of their customers. It is a habit with some of the dhobies to delay the delivery of washed clothes within the agreed time. This is however a characteristic of their class not in Quilon District alone but in other parts of the country as well. Though the washermen are paid now in cash for the service rendered by them they may still demand from their customers cash presents on important days reminding the latter of the bygone days and old customs.

Tailors

Tailoring serves as the main occupation of many people in the District. With the rise in the standard of living there has been an increase in the number and variety of garments to be cut and stitched and consequently the number of tailoring shops have also gone up. A large number of tailors own only one machine each. Almost all tailoring shops have sprung up in the vicinity of shops carrying on retail trade in clothes. Even in the retail shops a few tailors may have tailoring machines and the tailoring work is done there. Only in the urban areas and especially in the municipal town of Quilon we find a few large tailoring establishments. Owners of these shops employ workers to assist them. Some merchants, who do business in ready made clothes, also employ tailors. The Minimum Wages Committee for Shops and Establishments (1960) reported that the monthly wages of tailors employed in tailoring shops in Quilon town varied from Rs. 45 to Rs. 105 and in Pathanamthitta from Rs. 30 to Rs. 90. The minimum wages for such employees have since been fixed by the Government as Rs. 50. It is not uncommon among individual tailors to do small scale business in ready made clothes. The difference in the tailoring charges prevailing in urban and rural areas is keenly felt. Stitching charge is much higher in towns than in villages. In the villages tailors may not have heavy work and they may sometimes engage themselves in side business, especially in agriculture, for in the villages almost every one has some plot of land or paddy field. Young ladies are engaged in tailoring in their own houses. An important aspect of tailoring is that no one considers it *infra dig* to follow that profession with the result that members of many respectable families who have lost some of their traditional means of income find in it a profession from which they can still earn their living.

Hotellers

The hotels and restaurants give employment to a good number of people. The employees of hotels are comparatively better off than the domestic servants. They are generally an organised lot, though in small villages they may have no organisations at all. Expert cooks and servants get good emoluments. The Minimum Wages Committee for Shops and Establishments (1960) found that the existing monthly wages

for various categories of Hotel workers in Quilon Town were as follows when food was supplied free of cost.

Category of workers.	*Minimum*	*Maximum.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Cooks	25	75
Suppliers	15	40
Tea makers	15	30
Grinders	10	20
Cleaners	7	10

Government have since fixed the minimum wages for each of these categories of workers, viz., Rs. 30 for cooks, Rs. 27 for suppliers and tea makers, and Rs. 20 for grinders and cleaners. In addition each employee is entitled to food free of cost. The employees of Hotels have a great responsibility for running the hotels on healthy lines. Very often their trade unions come into conflict with the managements of hotels. Instances are not rare when hotels and restaurants had to be closed down as a result of the strikes of the employees. The names of a few associations of the Hoteliers in this District may be given here:—The Quilon Hotel and Tea Shop Workers Union, Quilon, Pathanapuram Taluk Hotel and Tea Shop Workers Union, Punalur, Quilon District Hotel and Tea Shop Workers Union, Quilon, Pathanamthitta Taluk Hotel and Tea Shop Workers Union, Pathanamthitta, Kundara Peedika and Hotel Thozhilali Union, Kundara and Kottarakara Taluk Hotel Thozhilali Union, Kottarakara.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

In the Census of 1951 the general population was divided into two broad occupational classes, viz., agricultural and non-agricultural. Each of these classes was sub-divided into four groups. The percentage distribution of population in the Quilon District in respect of each of these livelihood groups is given in Table I.[1]

TABLE I

Statement showing the percentage distribution of population according to livelihood classes. (1951 **Census**)

Sl. No.	*Groups*	*Percentage*
	(a) Agricultural Classes:	
1	Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents	38.88
2	Cultivators of land wholly or mainly un-owned and their dependents	3.98
3	Cultivating labourers and their dependents	16.97
4	Non-cultivating owners of land/agricultural rent-receivers and their dependents	0.65
	(b) Non-agricultural Classes:	
1	Production other than cultivation	20.79
2	Commerce	6.00
3	Transport	2.83
4	Other services and Miscellaneous sources	9.90

Source: 1951 Census Report.

It may be seen from the above table that 60.48 per cent of the total population of the District fell under agricultural classes and the remaining 39.52 were non-agriculturists. The all-India average of agriculturists and non-agriculturists according to the 1951 census was 68.1 per cent and 31.9 per cent respectively and the average for Kerala was 53.6 and 46.4 respectively. It may be noted in this connection that among the Districts of Kerala State, Quilon had, next to Kottayam, the lowest non-agricultural population at the Census of 1951.

1 The table pertains to the District as at present constituted and the figures have been arrived at on the basis of the Census of 1951.

Persons under each livelihood class were classified as earners, non-earning dependents and earning dependents. Table II gives the figures of persons under each livelihood class as per the 1951 Census.

TABLE II

Classification of Population According to Livelihood Classes Quilon District (1951 Census)

	Agricultural		*Non-agricultural*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Self-supporting	1,75,221	46,023	1,33,342	47,428
Non-earning dependents	2,39,306	3,49,499	1,42,508	2,14,844
Earning Dependents	28,287	54,624	15,164	30,160
Total	4,42,814	4,50,146	2,91,014	2,92,432

Self-supporting persons falling within each non-agricultural class were divided into three groups, viz., employers, employees and independent workers. Table III gives the estimates of the number of employers, employees and independent workers in industries and services in the Quilon District according to the Census of 1951.[1]

TABLE III

Employers, Employees and Independent Workers in Industries and Services (Non-agricultural) According to 1951 Census.

		Male	*Female*
Employers	..	5,288	334
Employees	..	66,774	29,047
Independent workers	..	57,327	13,936
Total	..	129,389	43,317
Grand Total		172706	

It may also be relevant in this connection to describe the distribution of population in Quilon town on the basis of the principal means of livelihood. Out of a total population of 66,126 in 1951 it is seen that 8,529 persons came under the agricultural classes and 57,597 persons under the non-agricultural classes. Figures of the total number of persons in each of the four groups under both agricultural and non-agricultural classes for Quilon town are given in Table IV.

1 Figures are estimates based on the 1951 Census.

TABLE IV

Classification of Population of Quilon Town according to the Livelihood Classes, 1951 Census.

Sl. No.	Group		Males	Females
	A. Agricultural Classes.			
1, 2, 3	Cultivators.	..	3,961	3,951
4	Non-Cultivating owners of land etc.	..	268	349
	B. Non-Agricultural Classes:			
5	Production other than cultivation	..	12,111	11,338
6	Commerce	..	6,120	5,472
7	Transport	..	2,867	2,602
8	Other services and miscellaneous sources	..	8,944	8,522
	Total	..	34,271	31,855

Source: 1951 Census Report.

It may be noted that the agricultural classes formed only a small percentage of the total population of Quilon town. The distribution in the non-agricultural category shows that production other than cultivation claimed the largest proportion. Next in importance were other services and miscellaneous sources, commerce and transport.

Industrial Classification of Workers (1961)

The Census of 1961 provides an interesting industry-wise classification of workers. Table V gives the total number of workers engaged in the various industrial categories in Quilon District as per the 1961 Census.

TABLE V

Workers in various Industrial categories. (1961)

	Industrial category		Total	Male	Female
1	Cultivator	..	2,00,403	1,69,413	30,990
2	Agricultural Labourer	..	86,694	60,272	26,422
3	Mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry Fishing, Hunting, Plantations & Allied activities	..	38,500	33,286	5,214
4	Household Industry	..	55,629	16,645	38,984
5	Manufacturing other than Household Industry	..	1,07,320	46,342	60,978
6	Construction	..	5,732	5,639	93
7	Trade and Commerce	..	28,934	27,183	1,751
8	Transport, Storage & Communications		13,607	13,395	212
9	Other Services	..	94,531	73,013	21,518
10	Non-workers	..	13,09,878	5,27,469	7,82,409

The Census revealed that while 33.31% of the total population of Kerala consisting of 47.20% of the male population and 19.71% of the female population constitute workers, in Quilon District 32.52% of the total population consisting of 45.77% of the male population and 19.22% of the female population constitute workers. The percentages out of the total population in the various industrial categories and percentage of non-workers out of the total population in the State as a whole and in the Quilon District are given in Table VI for the sake of comparison.

TABLE VI

Percentage of the total population in various industrial categories (1961)

Sl. No.	Class	Kerala State	Quilon District
1	As Cultivator	6.97%	10.32%
2	As Agricultural Labourer	5.79%	4.47%
3	In Mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Housing and Plantations and allied activities	2.88%	1.98%
4	At Household Industry	2.89%	2.67%
5	In manufacturing other than Household Industry	3.13%	5.53%
6	In Construction	0.42%	0.29%
7	In Trade and Commerce	1.91%	1.49%
8	In Transport, Storage & Communications	0.90%	0.70%
9	In other services	8.42%	4.87%
10	As Non-Workers	66.69%	67.48%

GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

A study of the general level of prices and wages will give an idea of the general economic condition of a people. The prices of essential commodities have been generally on the increase since the latter half of the 19th century. Table VII taken from Nagam Aiya gives the prices of some important foodgrains in December 1874 as compared with those of December 1904.

TABLE VII

Prices of Foodgrains (1874 and 1904)

	Names of food grains, oils etc.,	Prices per Madras measure* in December 1874			Prices per Madras measure in December 1904			Increase or decrease per cent in prices
		Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	
1	First class paddy	0	1	3	0	1	1 1/2	—10 %
2	Second class paddy	0	1	2	0	1	0	—14.28
3	First class rice	0	2	6	0	2	3	+10
4	Horse gram	0	1	1 1/2	0	1	10	+63
5	Black gram	0	2	1 1/2	0	2	6	+17.4
6	Green peas	0	1	10	0	2	10	+54.5
7	Gingelly	0	3	0	0	3	9	+25
8	Wheat	0	2	1/2	0	2	7	+28
9	Gingelly oil	0	8	9	0	11	11	36
10	Coconut oil	0	7	5	0	12	3	+65
11	Coconuts per 100	1	10	5	2	3	11	+35.9

* As the seer varies for different localities, the measure which is uniform throughou the whole Presidency had been adopted and the calculations made accordingly

1 Madras measure = one and one-fourth Travancore Idangazhis.

It may be seen from the above table that during 1874-1904 there was a steady increase in the prices of all important articles of consumption except paddy and rice. The period of the First World War and the decade that followed were characterised by a further increase in the general price level but in the wake of the general economic depression of the early thirties there was a heavy fall in the prices of all agricultural commodities. Table VIII shows the rapid fall in the price of copra from 1100 K.E. (1924-25) to 1112 K.E. (1936-37) and of pepper from 1104 K.E. (1928-29) to 1112 K.E. (1936-37).

TABLE VIII

Price of Copra and pepper 1924-1937.

Year	Copra Price per candy			Pepper Price per candy
	Rs.	A.	Ps.	Rs.
1924-25	112	10	8	N.A.
1925-26	105	2	6	N.A.
1926-27	89	14	4	N.A.
1927-28	110	12	8	N.A.
1928-29	95	3	10	600
1929-30	75	8	1	500
1930-31	57	8	6	250
1931-32	66	0	0	140-200
1932-33	39	0	0	198
1933-34	39	0	0	134
1934-35	45	0	0	131
1935-36	57	0	0	142
1936-37	61	0	0	120

1. The figures have been taken from the Economic Depression Committee Report. But they do not agree with the figures given in the Statistics volumes.

This rapid fall in prices imposed very great financial strain on the agricultural population. It adversely affected industry and trade.[1] It is significant that the total value of Travancore trade which amounted to more than Rs. 25 crores in 1928-29 came down to Rs. 14 crores in 1933-34.

In spite of the best efforts of the Government to arrest the deteriorating economic condition, recovery was slow and it was only the World War II that came to the rescue. The War and its after-effects and the accumulated effects of inflation brought about a steady and steep rise in the general level of prices in the forties. In 1950-51 before the First Plan was launched, the sharp though short-lived impact of the Korean War boom also manifested itself in increase in food prices. Prices of cereals were over four times higher than the pre-War level. Price controls and rationing had to be introduced with a view to meeting the food deficit and the consequent inflationary pressures. The cease-fire in Korea, improvement in the world production of wheat and rice, and better crop conditions in the country, however, brought about a general decline in the prices in 1952-53. The year 1953-54 and the following year witnessed a recession. To check the fall in prices the Government took specific measures, such as progressive decontrol, cutting down of food imports, building up buffer stocks, etc. By 1955-56 the upward trend in prices received a further impetus due to fall in total cereal production on account of unfavourable weather conditions. Since 1956 the rise in price level has been steady. It may also be noted that an important factor which contributed to the rise in prices during this period was the increased outlay on the developmental activities initiated under the Five Year Plans. Table IX gives the working class cost of living index numbers for Quilon and Punalur for the period commencing from 1956.

TABLE IX

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers.
Quilon and Punalur.

Centre	1939 *Base*	1956 *Average*	1957 *Average*	1958 *Average*	1959 *Average*	1960 *Average*	1961 *Average*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Quilon	100	384	403	422	455	455	493
Punalur	100	387	422	428	469	458	473

1 See also pages 499-500 of the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*.

It may be seen from the above table that by 1961 the price level had shot high. In fact the price level in Kerala in 1961 was on the whole higher than the all-India level. The rise in cost of living indices in Quilon, Punalur and such other towns of Kerala was much more than the highest rise that was recorded anywhere in India.[1]

Apart from the general price levels as measured by index numbers of prices and cost of living the price situation may be studied also with reference to the price trends of specific commodities. A statement of retail prices for certain important commodities at Quilon, Kottarakara and Punalur in 1939, 1951, 1956 and 1961 specially prepared for this chapter by the Department of Statistics is given in the Table given at Appendix I.

Rice is the most important consumer commodity in Kerala, and in Quilon as elsewhere in the State its price has registered a steady increase in recent years. Table X which gives the wholesale price of rice in Quilon for certain selected months during the years 1960 and 1961 illustrates this trend.

TABLE X

Wholesale price of rice in Quilon

Months	1960 Rs.	1961 Rs.
January	52.40	63.00
April	54.44	63.02
July	59.20	65.48
October	65.99	68.91
November	69.00	67.53
December	65.99	70.99

It may be seen from the above Table that in 1961 the price of rice was generally much higher than in 1960. This high level of rice prices was caused mainly by the smaller arrivals by rail and road from markets outside the State, increase in demand, the damage caused by floods and the consequent weakening of the supply position, the high level of prices prevailing in the rice markets of Andhra Pradesh and Madras States from where Kerala purchases rice and the lesser rate of increased rice production in Kerala. It is worth mentioning that the rise in the price of rice witnessed in 1961 was the highest point ever reached during the last five years.

1 *Kerala* 1961—*An Economic Review*, p. 154.

Table XI gives the retail prices of some other important commodities in Quilon during 1960 and 1961.

TABLE XI

Retail prices of some important commodities in Quilon during 1960 and 1961

Sl. No.	Commodity	Unit	Quilon 1960 Rs.	Quilon 1961 Rs.
1	Tapioca	1 K. G.	0.15	0.14
2	Sugar	„	1.59	1 24
3	Coconut Oil	*Edangazhi	2.90	2.31
4	Fish	1 K. G.	0.55	0.49
5	Arecanut	100 Nos.	3.68	3.47
6	Firewood	Quintal	4.79	4.92
7	Mundu	No.	2.97	3.12

* In 1961 the unit is litre.

The above table shows that the prices of such commodities as tapioca, sugar, coconut oil, fish and arecanut did not record so much of an increase in Quilon during the year 1961, though those of firewood and *mundu* registered an upward trend. However, the rising price of rice neutralised the benefit that would have otherwise accrued to the consumer from the fall in the prices of the other commodities mentioned above.

Wages

The wage level of workers has also gone on increasing along with the increase in the price level. Till 1860 the wages of labourers of every grade and class were exceedingly low. In the latter half of the 19th century there came about some rise in the worker's wages in certain areas. Table XII gives the statement of daily wages of agricultural labourers at Quilon, Karunagapally, Kunnathur, Kottarakara and Pathanapuram during the period 1880-1895.

TABLE XII

Daily wages of agricultural labourers (1880-1895)

Sl. No.	Taluk	1880-1885 As.	1880-1885 Ps.	1885-1890 As.	1885-1890 Ps.	1890-1895 As.	1890-1895 Ps.
1	Quilon	2	3	3	6	4	0
2	Karunagappally	3	0	4	0	8	0
3	Kunnathur	3	0	3	0	3	0
4	Kottarakara	4	0	4	0	4	0
5	Pathanapuram	3	6	3	6	3	6

Wages were paid both in kind and in cash. Early in this century the position in regard to agricultural wages was as follows:[1]

"The wages for reaping one *parah* of paddy of wet-land varies from ten-and a half to twelve *Idangazhis* of paddy. For transplanting, the wages are 2 to 4 Chuckrams[2] per day; for winnowing paddy the rate is one *Idangazhi* and for pounding it into rice, 2 *Nazhis* for every parah. These items of work are done by females.

"Ordinary day labourers get in the country parts, 4 to 6 chuckrams per day, and in towns from 7 to 9 chuckrams. Mason's wages in the country parts vary from 6 annas to Re. 1 while in towns they get half-a-rupee to one-and one-fourth rupees per day".

At the same time the carpenter got half a Rupee to Rs. 2 in towns and in rural areas 4 annas to 12 annas. Blacksmiths, goldsmiths and metal workers were paid *adangal,* i.e., wages according to the nature and quality of the work entrusted to them. A black-smith used to earn half to two Rupees a day, and a goldsmith from ¾ to 3 rupees."

During the first World War and the period immediately following it there was an increase in the workers' wages. But during the great depression of the early thirties the wage level showed a downward trend. In 1931 a skilled male agricultural labourer used to earn 12 annas to Re. 1-4 0 per day, unskilled labourers 8 annas and skilled female labourers 6 to 12 annas. The wages prevalent in important organised industries in Travancore as per the Census of 1931 are given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII

Wages in Organised Industries. (1931)

Industry	*Daily wages in chuckrams.*[3]	
Coir mat and matting factory	Men	21
	Women	12
	Boys	10 1/2
	Girls	9 1/2
Tile factory	Men	13
	Women	9
	Boys	9
Oil mills	Men	15 1/2
Match factory	Men	14
	Boys	5 1/4

1 V. Nagam Aiya, *Travancore State Manual,* Vol. III, p. 172.

2. Anna=1 ch. 12½ cash; 16 cash make one chuckram.

3. One Rupee is equivalent to 28½ Chuckrams.

TABLE XIII (Contd)

Industry	Daily wages in chuckrams.	
Monazite factory	Men	10 1/2
	Boys	6 1/4
Paper mills	Men	19
	Women	8 1/2
	Boys	7
	Girls	5 1/2
Printing Works	Men	14 1/2
	Boys	7
Motor repairs	Men	25
	Boys	13
Tea Cultivation	Men	12 1/2
	Women	9
	Boys	7
	Girls	7
Tea manufacture	Men	15 1/2
Rubber cultivation	Men	10 1/2
	Women	8 3/4
	Boys	7
	Girls	7

During the decade 1940-50 the wages rose steadily. This synchronised with the rise of the Trade Union movement and legislation on minimum wages. Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 minimum rates of wages have been fixed by the State Government for different categories of employees. Table XIV gives the minimum wage rates fixed for different types of adult male employees in some of the scheduled employments in the District.

TABLE XIV

Statement of Minimum Wages in some Scheduled Establishments. (1962)

Sl. No.	Employment	Minimum wages	Remarks
1	Printing presses (Unskilled)	Rs. 40 per mensem	..
	Skilled	Rs. 45 per mensem	..
2	Plantations: Field workers	Rs. 1.60 per day	..
	Factory workers	Rs. 1.81 per day	When calculated for 26 days monthly rate will come to Rs. 47-02.
3	Oil mills. Unskilled	Rs. 1.47 daily	Calculated for 26 days monthly rate will come to Rs. 45.50
	Semi skilled	Rs. 1 87 do.	do. 48.75
	Skilled	Rs. 2.50 do.	do. 65
4	Timber: men and women doing identical work	Rs. 46.75 per mensem	..

TABLE XIV (*Contd*)

Sl No.	*Employment*	*Minimum wages*	*Remarks.*
5	Municipalities:		
	Skilled workers	Rs. 79 per mensem	
	Unskilled workers	Between Rs. 62 and 71 per mensem depending on the nature of the work	..
6	Tile factory:		
	Unskilled	Re. 1 per day plus D.A. at the rate of 1 nP for every 2 points in cost of living index in excess of 200	
	Semi-skilled	Rs. 1.50 per day plus D. A. as stated above.	
	Skilled	Rs. 1.75 per day plus D.A. as stated above.	
7	Panchayats:		
	Unskilled Employees	Rs. 42 per mensum.	

The Government of India have selected the villages of Perimkulam (Kottarakara Taluk) and Azhur (Pathanamthitta Taluk) for regular collection of data on agricultural wages in the District. The statement of agricultural wages for these villages for 1956-61 is given in Table XV on page 460.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Nagam Aiya in his *Travancore State Manual* (1906) gives us the picture of "a healthy economic condition" in the early part of this century. The ordinary agricultural family led a life of comparative contentment. "The ordinary day labourer is very thrifty. The labourer and his family generally live upon *conjee* and roots such as *Kachil* and tapioca, etc. The average daily expenses of a labourer's family consisting of himself, wife and three children will come to nearly two fanams or four annas and a half, i.e., about Rs. 7 to 8 a month. This family in which we shall suppose, the labourer, his wife and only one of the children go out for daily work will easily earn Rs. 12 to 14 a month, resting from work for 4 or 6 days in the month, the loss of pay during such days being more than made good by the two harvesting seasons of the year, when the work is lighter and more congenial and more remunerative".[1] The revised *Travancore State Manual* (1940) gives the picture of a slightly higher standard of living. "The farmer who used

1 *Travancore State Manual*, V. Nagam Aiya, Vol. III, p. 173.

TABLE XV

Statement showing agricultural wages for Perumkulam and Azhur for the years 1956-61.

Centre	Year	Skilled Labour			Field Labour			Other Agricultural Labour			Herdsmen		
		Carpenter	Blacksmith	Mason	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Perumkulam	1956	2.37	2.50	..	1.54	1.23	..	1.50	1.23	..	..	..	0.70
	1957	2.50	2.50	N.Q.	1.50	1.25	..	1.50	1.27	0.70	..	..	0.70
	1958	2.95	2.57	2.99	1.54	1.19	0.87	1.53	1.14	0.87	..	..	0.76
	1959	3.14	2.60	3.24	1.68	1 35	0.89	1.64	1.35	..	..	..	0.74
	1960	3.35	..	3.35	1.74	1.45	0.90	1.74	1.45	..	N.Q.	..	0.70
	1961	3.50	..	3.50	1.77	1.50	0.78	1.75	1.50	..	..	..	0.70
Azhur	1956	2.44	2.00	..	1.52	0.94	..	1.52	0.97	..	0.89	..	0.63
	1957	2.50	2.16	2.67	1.43	1.03	..	1.43	1.05	..	0.87	..	0.72
	1958	2.54	2.79	2.77	1.47	1.10	..	1 47	1.10	..	0.96	..	0.77
	1959	2.59	2.82	2.82	1.47	1.10	..	1.47	1.16	..	1.01	..	0.79
	1960	2.75	3.00	3.00	1.58	1.18	..	1.52	1.14	..	1.07	..	1.02
	1961	2.85	2.90	3.38	1.75	1.24	..	1.71	1.22	..	..	..	1.06

to be contended with a *thorthu* reaching to the knee is now hankering after fashion and clothes manufactured in Manchester or Japan and a shirt have become indispensable. The thirst for luxuries has so much increased that unnecessary expenditure is incurred on them and necessities are put off. These forces are working with accelerated momentum. Cold rice which was the morning meal of even the middle classes thirty or forty years ago finds a substitute in tea, coffee or cocoa. The labourer patronises the tea shops with stern resolve".[1]

Table XVI gives the estimates of expenditure for a family of five persons living in conditions of comfort as well as of indigence in 1930.

TABLE XVI

Estimate of expenditure for a family of five persons (Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee (1930)

Items of expenditure	*Family of 5 in comfort* Rs.	*Percentage to total*	*Family of 5 in indigence* Rs.	*Percentage to total*
Food	150	36.1	104	72.2
Dress	20	4.8	8	5.6
Cost of cultivation	80	19.3	3	2.1
Cost of journeys	12	2.9	2	1.4
Litigation	12	2.9	.	..
Interest on loans	36	8.7	8	5.5
Payment for chitties	60	14.5	.	..
Ceremonies	10	2.4	..	..
Lighting	10	2.4	3	2.1
Education	10	2.4		..
Medical Expenses	6	1.5	..	..
Drink	..	..	13	9.0
Tobacco & other luxuries	9	2.1	3	2.1
	415	..	144	..

Cost of Living Index Surveys 1946 and 1951

Coming to more recent times a family budget survey was conducted in June 1946 by the Bureau of Statistics, Travancore University, on behalf of the Travancore Government in 7 select towns of the Travancore State including Quilon in order to collect basic data for the periodical compilation of the cost of living indices in these towns. Similar surveys were conducted by the Division of Statistics, Travancore University, in a few more selected centres in Travancore-Cochin State in 1951.

1 *Travancore State Manual*, T. K. Velu Pillai, Vol. III p. 81.

The centres covered by the new survey in Quilon District were Kundara, Pathanamthitta and Punalur. The following economic aspects of the life of the people in these centres were studied from the data collected by the family budget enquiry.

1. Distribution of families in broad expenditure groups.
2. Composition of family.
3. Family budgets.
4. Particulars of commodities and average quantities of articles consumed per month in the family.
5. Cost of living index.

As it was felt that returns relating to total income for each family were not always reliable, a division of families in the economic strata was made according to the monthly expenditure in the family. Table XVII gives the percentage distribution of families surveyed according to the total monthly expenditure.

TABLE XVII

Percentage distribution of the families according to the expenditure groups

Centre	*Total No. of Families*	*Expenditure in rupees per month*						
		Less than 50	50 *to* 100	100 *to* 150	150 *to* 250	250 *to* 350	350 *to* 500	*Average*
Quilon	1917	5	48	29	13	3	2	117
Kundara	1001	3	61	26	9	1	..	100
Punalur	997	8	46	29	13	3	1	113
Pathanam-thitta	1047	15	53	20	10	2	..	96

It may be noted that in all the four centres families with an expenditure above Rs. 250 formed only a very small percentage. The largest number of families came within the expenditure groups Rs. 50 to 100 and Rs. 100 to 150.

As the standard of living of a family depends to some extent on its composition it would be interesting to have an idea of the average size of the family expressed in terms of adult equivalents in broad expenditure groups in respect of each of the four centres. Table XVIII conveys this information.

TABLE XVIII

Average size of family (in terms of adults) in Broad Expenditure Groups.

Centres	*Expenditure in rupees per month*						
	Below Rs. 50	50 *to* 100	100 *to* 150	150 *to* 250	250 *to* 350	350 *to* 500	*Average size*
Quilon	2.54	4.38	6.10	7.45	7.22	9.71	5.28
Kundara	2.66	4.22	5.91	6.02	6.24	7.17	4.80
Punalur	2.63	4.35	5.82	6.85	8.09	8.45	5.12
Pathanamthitta	3.19	4.62	5.66	6.24	6.16	6.83	4.81

It is worth mentioning that the average size of the families showed a tendency to increase along with the increase in total expenditure in respect of all the four centres. The Table in Appendix II gives details of family expenditure under major items for the respective expenditure groups in all the four centres.

Table XIX gives the percentage of expenditure in the four centres in broad expenditure groups according to the items of expenditure.

TABLE XIX

Percentage distribution of the total expenditure according to items of expenditure

		Items of expenditure				
Centre	*Expenditure group*	*Food*	*Clothing*	*Housing Light Fuel*	*Pansupari Recreation Medical Education*	*Miscellaneous*
Quilon	Below Rs. 50	64.9	5.5	12.3	4.1	13.0
	50—100	65.8	5.6	10.4	4.9	13.3
	100—150	65.2	6.2	10.6	4.7	13.1
	150—250	59.5	7.2	12.4	4.6	16.3
	250—350	53.6	7.9	12.5	4.4	21.6
	350—500	53.8	7.4	13.6	4.0	21.2
Punalur	Below Rs. 50	66.1	6.5	12.8	4.0	10.6
	50—100	69.8	5 4	11.4	3 4	10.0
	100—150	69.9	5.7	10.6	[illegible].1	10.7
	150—250	62.0	6 0	9.8	2.6	13.6
	250—350	65.7	7.2	9.2	1.8	16.1
	350—500	51.3	7.4	10.1	2.6	28.6
Kundara	Below Rs. 50	63.7	7.2	15.3	4.0	9.8
	50—100	67.9	7.1	12.0	2.7	10.3
	100—150	70.0	6.8	11.7	2.0	9.5
	150—250	62.7	7.0	12.1	2.0	16.2
	250—350	58.0	6.5	8.5	1.2	25.8
	350—500	64.6	6.1	7.6	0.4	21.3
Pathanamthitta	Below Rs. 50	72.9	4.9	10.9	3 7	7.6
	50—100	74.5	5.1	8.7	3.0	8.7
	100—150	73.7	6.3	12 8	2.6	4.6
	150—250	64.1	6.0	12.4	2.1	15.4
	250—350	59.3	5.7	15.0	[illegible] 9	18.1
	350—500	50.5	8.3	10.9	11.2	19.1

The Tables given in Appendix III give the average quantities of the various commodities consumed per month in the family according to the expenditure groups in all the centres.

Table XX gives the cost of living index for the period of June 1946 for Quilon and February 1951 for Punalur, Kundara and Pathanamthitta in respect of the respective expenditure groups.

TABLE XX

Cost of Living Index for Expenditure Groups

(Rupees per mensem)

Centre	*Below* 50	50-100	100-150	150-250	250-350	350-500	*Average*
Quilon	346	334	317	282	250	243	320
Kundara	321	321	298	278	231	..	309
Punalur	326	328	318	293	277	217	318
Pathanamthitta	358	347	322	281	259	..	339

Rural Credit Survey (1951-52)

In 1951-52 a Rural Credit Survey was conducted in 8 villages in the erstwhile Quilon District by the Reserve Bank of India as part of the All India Rural Credit Survey. These included the villages of Chathannur Erom in Quilon Taluk, Manapally South in Karunagapally Taluk and Nedumon in Kunnathur Taluk in the present Quilon District. Field investigations were conducted in these selected villages by adopting the stratified random sampling method. All the families in each of these villages were covered by the General Schedule adopted for the survey which covered such items of expenditure as construction and repairs to residential houses, durable consumer goods, death, marriage and other ceremonies, sickness, education and litigation and did not include current consumption items such as food stuffs and entertainments. This was supplemented by an intensive enquiry confined to a small sub-sample of 15 cultivating families in each of these selected villages.[1] The data of important items of family expenditure incurred duirng the 12 months preceding the month of investigation

1 All the cultivating families in the villages surveyed were arranged in the descending order of the size of their cultivated holdings and divided into four groups, viz., big, large, medium and small. The first 10 per cent of the families formed the first group, the second 20 per cent the second group, the middle 40 per cent the third group and the last 30 per cent the 4th group. Two families were selected for the random survey from the first group, 4 from the 2nd group, 6 from the third group and 3 from the 4th group.

were collected from all families in the villages. Table XXI gives the data relating to average expenditure per cultivating family collected at the survey.

TABLE XXI

Family expenditure on the Recorded items

(General Schedule data. Amount in rupees per cultivating family)

	Item	*Proportion of families reporting this expenditure (per cent)*	*Average expenditure per family*	*Proportion of expenditure on the item to the total expenditure on recorded items (Per cent)*	*Average expenditure per reporting family*
1	Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings	93.8	111	27	119
2	Purchase of household utensils, furniture etc.	25.5	9	2	36
3	Purchase of clothing, shoes, bedding, etc.	99.6	65	16	65
4	Death ceremonies	13.6	9	2	65
5	Marriage and other ceremonies	42.5	81	20	189
6	Medical expenses	78.5	67	16	85
7	Educational expenses	51.6	48	12	94
8	Litigation charges	14.8	19	5	130
	Total	100.0	410	100	410

Table XXII shows the family expenditure on recorded items compared with the pattern of all-India expenditure.

TABLE XXII

Recorded items of family Expenditure

(General Schedule data. Amount in rupees per cultivating family)

	Item	*All-India*		*Quilon*	
		Proportion of families reporting this expenditure (per cent)	*Average expenditure per family*	*Proportion of families reporting this expenditure per cent*	*Average expenditure per family*
1	Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings	39.8	61	93.8	111
2	Purchase of household utensils, furniture, etc.	26.1	9	25.5	9
3	Purchase of clothing shoes, bedding etc.	97.5	132	99.6	65
4	Death ceremonies	10.4	13	13.6	9
5	Marriage and other ceremonies	30.0	86	42.5	81
6	Medical expenses	32.3	26	78.5	67
7	Educational expenses	18.3	18	51.6	48
8	Litigation charges	6.4	16	14.8	19
	Total	..	361	100.0	410

The above tables reveal that the pattern of family expenditure in Quilon was different from that in almost all other parts of India. These variations are due to the special conditions prevailing in the District. Quilon is located in the high rainfall zone of the west coast and the climate of the District calls for smaller expenditure on clothes and higher expenditure on maintenance and repairs of houses. The high standard of education in the area also accounts for the variations in the pattern of expenditure. The average family expenditure was found to vary between cultivators and non-cultivators as well as from village to village. In the present Quilon District, it was the highest at Rs. 466 in Chathannur Erom and the lowest at Rs. 252 in Manapally South in the case of cultivators. Table XXIII gives the total expenditure on recorded items of family expediture in the three villages.

TABLE XXIII

Total Expenditure on Recorded items of family Expenditure (General Schedule data)

Village	*Average Expenditure per family in Rupees*		
	Cultivators	*Non-cultivators*	*All families*
Chathannur Erom	466	175	429
Manapally South	252	133	239
Nedumon	304	66	269

The expenditure on construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings reflects to some extent the level of the standard of living of a people. Table XXIV shows the expenditure on construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings in the three villages.

TABLE XXIV

Expenditure on construction and Repairs of residential houses and other buildings (General Schedule data)

Village	*Proportion of families reporting expenditure (per cent)*	*Expenditure per family* (Rs.)	*Expenditure per reporting family* (Rs.)
Chathannur Erom	87.4	124	141
Manapally South	91.4	62	68
Nedumon	92.1	116	126

About 36 per cent of the total number of cultivating families reported expenditure on purchase of household utensils,

furniture etc., while almost all the cultivating families reported expenditure on purchase of clothings, shoes, bedding, etc. The average expenditure on the former item varied from Rs. 13 in the case of small cultivators to Rs. 40 in the case of big cultivators while the average expenditure on the latter item ranged from Rs. 30 in the case of small cultivators to Rs. 174 in the case of big cultivators. It was also seen that less than 5 per cent of the total expenditure on specified items of family expenditure was on death ceremonies while about 20% of the total expenditure was on marriages and other ceremonies. It is also significant that medical expenses, educational expenses and litigation charges also claimed their share of family expenditure. The expenditure reported by big cultivators on medicine was 4 times, on litigation 11 times, and on education 33 times the expenditure reported by the small cultivators.

Rural Credit Follow-up Survey (1957-58).

A follow-up survey was conducted in the Quilon District by the Reserve Bank of India from May 1958 to October 1959 on the lines of the enquiry followed in the Rural Credit Survey of 1951-52. A sample of 16 villages was chosen. They were Pazhavangadi, Vaikom, Madamom Thekku, Muttathukonam, Ilakollur, Angadickal Thekku, Pavumpa vadakku, Thekkuman, Perayam, Kottathala, Nellikunnam, Cherikkonam, Paramkode, Kadackal, Arampunna and Erur. Within the selected villages detailed investigation was conducted in 26 cultivating families. The data relating to some selected items of family expenditure were collected from these families on the same lines as in 1951-52. The total recorded expenditure per family came to Rs. 335 for the year ending with 30th April 1958. The expenditure on each item as percentage of total recorded expenditure is given in Table XXV.

TABLE XXV

Statement of expenditure (Follow-up Survey 1958)

Sl. No.	*Item*		*Expenditure*
1	Purchase of house	..	Nil.
2	Construction and repair of houses	..	22
3	Purchase of domestic utensils	..	3
4	Purchase of cloth	..	27
5	Death ceremonies	..	1
6	Marriage and other ceremonies	..	17
7	Medical expenses	..	16
8	Education	..	12
9	Litigation	..	1

A comparison of the above figures with those of 1951-52 would show that the people were spending much more on the purchase of clothes and much less on litigation charges during the period covered by the latter survey. In regard to other items of expenditure there was not much of a striking change in the percentage of expenditure.

Family Budget of Agricultural Labourers

In order to get an idea of the standard of life of people living in the rural areas we may rely also on the findings of the sample survey of family budgets of agricultural workers conducted by the Statistics Department of the State in four selected villages in Quilon District at the instance of the Minimum Wages Committee for Employment in Agriculture constituted by the Government of Travancore-Cochin in 1953. Enquiries were conducted in the villages of Cherukol (Pathanamthitta Taluk) Karunagapally, Adichanallur (Quilon Taluk) and Vilakudi (Pathanapuram Taluk). Table XXVI gives the average distribution and percentage of expenditure per family per year in the villages.

Family Budget of Plantation Workers

The Statistics Department of the State conducted a Nutritional Diet Survey in respect of plantation labour in the tea industry in Kerala in 1958. Quilon was one of the centres covered by the survey. Four estates were selected and in each of these estates a sample of ten workers' households was selected by systematic sampling method for detailed enumeration. From the sample households data relating to family budgets were collected. The average size of a plantation worker's household in this district was 5.1. The household spent on an average 67.23 of the total expenditure on food items, 11.66 on housing, 6.46 on clothing and 14.65 on miscellaneous items such as toilets services, pan, beedi and cigarettes, intoxicants, ceremonies, education, medical care etc.

Family Budget of Toddy Tappers

We may also refer to the findings of the enquiry into the family budgets of toddy tappers in the district conducted by the Statistics Department of the State in 1956-57. Quilon and Karunagapally were the two centres selected for the survey. In the former 200 households were selected. Out of it 198 were enumerated. In the latter place out of the 100 households

TABLE XXVI

Average distribution and percentage of expenditure per family per year (1953).

Taluk	*Pathanamthitta*		*Karunagapally*		*Quilon*		*Pathanapuram*	
Village	*Cherukol*		*Karunagapally*		*Adichanallur*		*Vilakudi*	
No. of cards analysed	100		129		103		100	
Items	*Amount* Rs.	*Percentage*	*Amount* Rs.	*Percentage*	*Amount* Rs.	*Percentage*	*Amount* Rs.	*Percentage*
Food ..	237.3	63.4	240.5	56.3	404.3	55.7	326.5	77.4
Rent ..	1.1	.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Light and Fuel ..	9.5	2.6	29.3	6.9	99.4	13.7	19.5	4.6
Pansupari ..	18.9	5.2	18.3	4.5	32.8	4.5	26.5	6.3
Clothing ..	32.8	8.8	39.3	9.3	36.4	5.0	28.1	6.7
Miscellenaous ..	73.8	19.7	98.2	23.0	153.6	21.1	21.0	5.0
Total ..	373.4	100.0	425.6	100.0	725.9	100.0	421.6	100.0

selected 28 were enumerated. The average size of a household in Quilon was 3.19 while in Karunagapally it was 6.14.[1] Table XXVII gives the detailed break-up of family expenditure on different items in both centres.

TABLE XXVII

Household expenditure

Centres	*All*	*Food*	*Clothing*	*Housing*	*Miscellaneous*
Karunagapally	126	85	10	14	17
Quilon	117	64	7	10	36

General level of employment in different occupations

Though no systematic survey of the pattern of employment in the different occupations in the District has yet been undertaken, we have some statistical information regarding the number of workers employed in the registered factories of the District (1961). This is given in Table XXVIII.

TABLE XXVIII

Employment in registered Factories in Quilon District (1961)

Sl. No.	*Industry*	*No. of factories*	*No. of Workers*
1	Rice, Oil and Flour mills	17	145
2	Tea ..	10	312
3	Cashew .	161	62,103
4	Textiles & Knitting ..	1	856
5	Coir ..	2	113
6	Saw mills ..	19	468
7	Plywood ..	1	110
8	Splints & Veneers & Matches ..	18	565
9	Packing cases ..	21	250
10	Wood works & furniture ..	2	43
11	Printing ..	8	353
12	Rubber & Rubber goods ..	15	367
13	Bricks & tiles ..	27	1,900
14	Metal & metal products ..	20	1,512
15	Manufacture of Transport Equipments	11	260
16	Others ..	24	726
	All ..	357	70,085

1 In Quilon about 50% of the households investigated contained only one inmate, namely, the tapper.

The Employment Market Reports published by the Employment Exchange, Quilon, throw light on the employment trends in the District. The report for the quarter ending with June 30, 1961 shows that 1074 establishments in the private sector reported that their employment stood at 70,278 on the last day of June 1961.[1] In the public sector 131 responding establishments reported that the total employment was 16827 on the same date. Women accounted for 64.8 per cent of the total number of employees in the private sector and 16.3 in the public sector. Tables XXIX and XXX give the industry-wise statement of the number of employees in the private and public sectors in the District as on June 30, 1961.

TABLE XXIX

Industry-wise statement of the number of employees in the private sector in Quilon District as on June 30, 1961.

Sl. No.	Description of Industry	No. of establishment Addressed	Responded	No. of employees
1	Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing and Hunting ..	136	104	8,391
2	Mining and quarrying	2	1	18
3	Manufacturing	723	492	53,661
4	Construction	6	4	72
5	Trade and commerce	267	696	1,336
6	Transport and Communications	21	15	219
7	Services (Education, Medical, Health, etc.)	349	262	6,581
		1,504	1,074	70,278

TABLE XXX

Industry-wise statement of the number of employees in the public sector in the District as on June, 30, 1961,

Sl. No.	Description of Industry	No. of establishment Addressed	Responded	No. of employees
1	Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing and hunting ..	9	7	2,781
2	Manufacturing ..	8	5	2,509
3	Construction ..	3	3	648
4	Electricity, Gas, Water and sanitary services ..	4	3	441
5	Trade and Commerce ..	9	9	164
6	Transport and Communications ..	4	3	763
7	Services including administration, education, medical services etc. ..	94	75	9,521
	Total ..	131	105	10,827

1. Employment market information is collected from employers in the private secto who normally employ five or more persons. Of the 1514 establishments in the private sector addressed for information only 1074 responded.

Table XXXI gives the statement of the number of employees in the different wings of the public sector in Quilon District as on June 30, 1961.

TAALE XXXI

Sl. No.	Type of establishment		No. of establishment Addressed	Responded	No. of employees
1	Central Government	..	2	1	5
2	State Government	..	108	92	14,184
3	Quasi-Government (Central)	..	5	5	1,652
4	Quasi-Government (State)	..	9	5	708
5	Municipalities	..	3	2	268
6	Other Local bodies	..	4	..	..
	Total	..	131	105	16,827

Employment Fxchange, Quilon

The Quilon Employment Exchange was set up in 1957. Its territorial jurisdiction extends over the whole of the District. Since its establishment the Quilon Employment Exchange has been engaged in finding suitable occupations for the unemployed in this area. An idea of the working of the Exchange since its inception can be had from Table No. XXXII which gives the figures relating to the total number registered of employment seekers, number of placings and persons on the live register for each of the years from 1957 to 1960.

TABLE XXXII

Statement of Registrations, Placings etc., in the Employment Exchange, Quilon 1957-60.

Year	No. of registrations during the year	No. of placements during the year	No. pending on the Live Register at the close of the year	No. of employers using the Exchange
1957	14,444	656	13,048	139
1958	14,796	707	14,210	266
1959	11,049	640	15,634	205
1960	15,120	1,236	21,335	151

The Live Register at the end of June 1961 showed that there were 23,603 persons seeking employment assistance through the Quilon Employment Exchange. 55.2 per cent of these were educated registrants, 12,104 matriculates (8531 males and 3573 females), 189 intermediates (154 males and 35 females) and 413 graduates (296 males and 117 females). Analysed by occupation it was found that 8.6 per cent of the

applicants in the live register were seeking professional, technical and related work, 4.1 per cent clerical and related work, 3.5 per cent skilled work other than craft work, 0.1 per cent administrative, executive and managerial work and 0.8 per cent unskilled office work. The remaining 73.9 per cent could not be classified by occupation as they had no work experience or vocational training.

In addition to its normal duties like registration of applicants for jobs and their placings the Quilon Employment Exchange also collects on a quarterly basis information from the employees in the public and private sectors on such matters as the total number of employees under them, the vacancies available etc. The data thus collected are tabulated and published regularly with a view to giving to the public and the Government a correct picture of the man power surpluses and shortages in this area. This programme known as the Employment Market Information Programme was started in this district on March 31, 1958. Tables XXIX and XXX given earlier would convey an idea of the work done by the Quilon Employment Exchange in this regard.

Another important scheme that has come into operation in the Quilon Employment Exchange is Vocational Guidance under which the employment seekers are individually and collectively counselled by an Officer trained in Vocational Guidance work. The Vocational Guidance Programme was started with effect from April 25, 1961.

Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme was introduced in this District with the inauguration of the Kottarakara N.E.S. Block on April 1, 1955. The Quilon District has since been delimited into 17 N.E.S. Blocks. Of these 13 Blocks were functioning on April 1, 1961 while the remaining four in Anchal, Chadayamangalam, Mukhathala, and Paracode had not yet been started. The names of the Blocks, their status on that date, the details of the population and area covered by them, the dates of their establishment, the number of villages and Panchayats etc., are given in the Table at Appendix IV. A statement showing the comparative progress achieved and expected under the Community Development Programme in the District with reference to the number of villages and population covered is also given in the Table at Appendix V.

The Community Development Programme is a multi-purpose programme embracing all fields of developmental activity. These activities may be classified under the following heads. (1) Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry, (2) Irrigation, (3) Co-operation (4) Health and rural sanitation (5) Education (6) Social Education, (7) Communication (8) Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries and (9) Housing. The Table given at Appendix VI to this Chapter sums up the cumulative achievements and people's contributions under the Community Development Programme in respect of the Blocks in this District during the period ending 1960-61.

APPENDIX—I

Statement of Retail Prices

Sl. No.	Commodity	Unit	August 1939			August 1951			August 1956			August 1961		
			Quilon	Kottara-kara	Punalur	Quilon	Kottara kara	Punalur	Quilon	Kottara-kara	Punalur	Quilon	Kottara-kara	Punalur
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Rice	Ed	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.69	0.69	0.53	0.79		0.74
2	Chillies	lb.	0.21	0.23	0.20	1.12	1.25	1.25	1.05	1.00	0.97	1.14		1.13
3	Corriander	,,	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.19	1.25	1.19	0.49	0.48	0.44	0.69		0.55
4	Onions	,,	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.13		0.12
5	Salt	,,	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04		0.03
6	Tapioca	,,	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.06	..	0.08	0.07		0.04
7	Greengram	,,	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.27	0.23	0.24	0.41		0.40
8	Blackgram	,,	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.47	0.53	0.44	0.32	0.31	0.33	0.35		0.32
9	Mutton	,,	0 27	0.25	0 22	1.25	1.12	1.37	1.13	1.20	1.06	1.50		1.00
10	Fish	,,	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.75	0.50	0.62	0.63	0.44	0.33	0.32		0.36
11	Milk	Ed.	0.25	0.19	0.19	0.62	0.75	0.50	1.00	0.62	0.50	1.12		0.89
12	Tea	lb.	0.47	0.44	0.44	2.37	2.75	2.75	2.66	2.06	2.22	2.47		2.50
13	Sugar	lb.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.50	0.52	0.53	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.56		0.55
14	Coconut Oil	Ed.	0.31	0.34	0.44	3.00	3.25	3.25	1.78	1.91	2.27	3.11		3.05
15	Coconut	100	20.0	20.0	22.5	21.00	20.00	22.00	10.25	10.50	14.38	22.38		21.75
16	Kerosene	24 oz.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.27		0.29
17	Fire-wood	Ton	8.50	7.00	6.75	23.00	28.00	26.25	23.75	28.00	31.25	43.78		21.54
18	Arecanut	100	0.45	0.25	0.39	3.00	3.53	2.00	3.44	3.25	4.88	3.24		3.20
19	Tobacco (Ordinary)	lb.	0.37	0.44	0.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	1.72	1.50	1.50	1.36		1.75

APPENDIX II

Family Expenditure on important items. Expenditure Group: Below Rs. 50 per month.

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice	..	10.3	12.36	12.48	11.44
Condiments	..	..	2.04	2.77	2.23
Pulses	..	1.1	0.23	0.13	0 40
Tapioca	..	1.7	4.79	4.14	3.25
Vegetables	..	1.1	0.21	0.46	1.36
Meat	..	0.2	0.11	0.23	0.27
Fish	..	2.0	2.88	1.09	1 98
Milk	..	0.6	0.18	0.15	0.27
Oil	..	0.8	2.04	1.79	2 05
Coconut	..	2.6	2.55	2.32	3.23
House Rent	..	1.6	2.43	1.63	1.19
Light	..	0.7	1.04	0.50	0.39
Fuel	..	2.0	3 54	2.96	2.74
Clothing-Year	..	1.8	3.32	2.56	1.95
Pansupari	..	1.1	1.84	1.60	1.45
Education, Recreation and Medical	..	1.4	3.82	3.59	2.44
-Washing	.	.	0.71	0.60	0.58
Tea, Coffee etc.	..	1.9	1.86	1.60	2.48
Total	..	37.0	45.95	39.62	39.70

APPENDIX II (*contd.*)

Family Expenditure on important items. Expenditure Group: Rs. 50-100 per month.

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice	..	19.0	22.21	23.30	21.21
Condiments	..	1.9	3.54	4.41	3.36
Pulses	.	3.8	0.29	0.86	1.48
Tapioca	..	3.8	8.90	6.89	4.99
Vegetables	..	2.3	0.61	1.63	3.03
Meat	..	0.9	1.08	0.77	1.18
Fish	..	4.4	5.43	3.80	2.64
Milk	..	3.2	0.34	1.33	1.72
Tea, Coffee, etc.,	..	2.2	2.78	2.82	4.84
Oil	..	3.6	3.49	3.26	3.81
Coconut	..	1.8	4.61	4.29	5.74
House Rent	..	4.9	3.95	3.56	3.05
Light	..	2.8	1.41	0.85	0.60
Fuel	..	1.5	4.09	4.28	2.66
Clothing Year	..	3.3	5.56	4.13	3.70
Pansupari	..	4.1	2.11	2.58	2.16
Education, Recreation & Medical	..	5.0	6.62	6.40	5.25
Washing	..	..	1.48	1.26	1.05
Total	..	74.6	78.50	76.42	72.47

APPENDIX II (*Contd.*)

Family Expenditure on important items, Expenditure Group: Rs. 100-150

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice	..	27.5	33.45	36.21	30.29
Condiments	..	4.7	4.89	6.03	5.31
Pulses	..	3.2	1.04	1.69	2.68
Tapioca	..	4.8	10.52	9.64	6.96
Vegetables	..	3.6	1.55	2.74	5.25
Meat	..	2.8	2.29	2.22	3.10
Fish	..	6.6	7.82	4.83	3.64
Milk	..	6.0	1.81	4.60	5.96
Tea, Coffee, etc.	..	5.1	4.46	5.05	7.66
Oil	..	2.8	4.47	4.97	5.24
Coconut	..	6.1	6.31	6.62	8.94
House Rent	..	5.0	5.81	5.35	6.04
Light	..	2.0	1.84	1.25	1.13
Fuel	..	5.2	5.43	6.23	7.54
Clothing Year	..	7.0	7.57	6.92	7.28
Pansupari	..	4.0	2.21	3.75	2.99
Education, Reconstruction & Medical	..	5.6	12.84	10.77	10.78
Washing	..	..	2.40	2.02	2.06
Total	..	115.3	112.24	120.99	115.31

APPENDIX II(*Contd.*)

Family Expenditure on important items. Expenditure group: Rs. 150-250

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice	..	35.6	46.13	51.77	40.54
Condiments	..	6.8	6.79	8.05	7.22
Pulses	..	5.0	3.57	2.96	4.57
Tapioca	..	2.9	8.67	11.05	8.20
Vegetables	..	5.8	3.46	4.72	7.76
Meat	..	4.1	3.07	4.16	6.89
Fish	..	8.3	9.22	6.18	5.41
Milk	..	10.1	7.20	10.43	10.83
Tea, Coffee, etc.	..	7.3	7.90	8.53	11.47
Oil	..	4.1	5.82	7.57	7.77
Coconut	..	8.7	9.46	9.97	11.24
House Rent	..	10.1	11.37	8.47	11.23
Light	..	2.5	2.74	1.92	2.00
Fuel	..	8.0	7.34	7.65	10.44
Clothing Year	..	11.9	12.44	11.15	11.40
Pansupari	..	5.3	3.56	4.84	4.04
Education, Recreation & & Medical	..	11.9	24.54	21.99	26.00
Washing	..	..	4.08	3.46	3.19
Total	..	170.0	177.06	184.87	190.20

APPENDIX II (*Contd.*)

Family Expenditure on important items. Expenditure group: Rs. 250-350.

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice	..	43.4	65.68	81.74	52.13
Condiments	..	26.1	9.26	10.48	8.88
Pulses	..	8.4	6.21	4.20	6.72
Tapioca	..	10.8	13.11	10.59	9.67
Vegetables	..	4.6	5.53	6.98	9.05
Meat	..	7.8	10.74	8.21	17.05
Fish	..	10.7	8.42	7.00	12.08
Milk	..	11.2	13.16	17 21	21.17
Tea, Coffee, etc,	..	6.0	15.11	16.94	21.14
Oil	..	10.8	9.37	11.74	5.05
Coconut	..	17.0	14.72	11.57	14.19
House Rent	..	3.3	13.89	14.08	19.00
Light	..	12.4	2.89	2.96	5.02
Fuel	..	20.6	8.79	9.27	20.00
Clothing Year	.	6.4	19.74	20.56	16.85
Pansupari	..	5 1	3 68	5.34	5 45
Education, Recreation & Medical	..	32.3	72.40	40.92	47.49
Washing	..	..	5.53	5.40	5.62
Total	..	262.0	301.89	287.04	293.55

APPENDIX II (*Contd*)

Family Expenditure on important items Expenditure group: Rs. 350-500

Items		*Quilon*	*Kundara*	*Punalur*	*Pathanamthitta*
Rice		87.0	126.50	81.30	61.33
Condiments		26.9	10.83	15.00	7.00
Pulses	..	10.2	11.83	7.30	11.00
Tapioca	..	14.3	6.17	8.50	3.33
Vegetables	..	9.3	5.83	12.30	11.33
Meat	.	10.1	10.00	9.65	33.67
Fish	.	13.5	15.50	9.55	13.33
Milk	..	15.1	26.84	19.53	35.33
Tea, Coffee, etc	..	8.3	30.17	18.20	24.67
Oil	..	13.2	9.83	15.28	10.67
Coconut	..	30.5	13.00	15.50	12.50
House Rent	..	6.8	17.50	25.00	23.33
Light	..	17.3	3.66	3.63	5.00
Fuel	..	28.4	14.33	13.10	20.00
Clothing Year	..	8.2	28.50	30.80	36.67
Pansupari	..	8.0	2.00	10.68	50.00
Education, Recreation & Medical	..	48.9	91.84	108.95	74.67
Washing	..	..	8.17	9.50	10.33
Total	..	356.00	468.50	413.77	444.16

APPENDIX III

The average quantities of the various commodities consumed per month in the family obtained by dividing the expenditure and the various items by the respective prices

Items	*Unit*	*Below Rs.* 50	*Rs.* 50-100	*Rs.* 100-150	*Rs.* 150-250	*Rs.* 250-350	*Rd.* 350-500
				QUILON			
Rice	Edangazhi	22.40	41.36	59.81	77.29	94.38	124.59
Condiments	Lbs.	5.55	9.99	14.49	20.93	32.98	41.68
Tapioca	,,	25 11	56.42	70.89	42.83	17.72	4.28
Pulses	,	2.99	5.16	8.69	13.63	22.81	27.75
Vegetables	,,	5.10	10.66	18.07	27.02	50.05	65.16
Meat	,,	0.25	1.11	3.45	5.45	5.66	11.48
Fish	,,	3.14	6.57	9.86	12.39	11.68	15.13
Milk	Edangazhi	0.67	2.46	6.72	11.31	29.24	29.72
Tea etc ,	,,	2.77	5.25	7.44	10.65	16.34	22.04
Oil	,,	0.33	0.75	1.16	1.71	2.50	3.46
Coconuts	Nos.	11.00	21.00	26.00	37.00	46.00	57.00
Clothing	Yds.	1.86	4.11	6.95	11.86	20.62	28.38
Washing	Nos.	10.00	25.00	42.00	70.00	107.00	137.00
Rent	As.	25.60	44.80	80.00	161.60	272.00	488.00
Light	..	1.40	3.00	6.36	7.95	10.50	14.95
Fuel	Lbs.	150.16	247.77	390.43	600.66	931.02	1298.92
Education	..	22.40	59.20	89.60	222.40	516.00	782.40
Pansupari	As.	0.88	2.24	3.20	2.24	4.06	6.40
				KUNDARA			
Rice	Edangazhi	23.45	42.13	83.46	87.51	124.60	Not
Condiments	Lbs.	3.74	6.49	8.96	12.45	16.98	taken
Tapioca	,,	88.75	164.90	164.91	160.64	242.90	since
Pulses	,,	0.59	0.75	2.68	9.20	16.00	there
Vegetables	,,	0.75	2.17	5.51	12.29	19.64	are
Meat	,,	0.13	1.27	2.68	3.59	12.57	only 6
Fish	,,	5.14	9.67	13.95	16.45	21.56	families
Milk	Edangazhi	0.19	0.36	1.94	7.72	14.11	
Tea etc,	,,	1.87	2.80	4.49	7.95	15.21	
Oil	,,	0.64	1.09	1.40	1.82	2.93	
Coconuts	Nos.	10.68	19.31	26.43	39.62	61.65	
Clothing	Yds.	2.44	4.08	5.55	9.13	14.48	
Washing	Nos.	7.10	14.80	24.00	40.80	55.30	
Rent	As.	38.88	63.20	92.96	181.92	222.24	
Light	,,	1.56	2.12	4.87	7.26	7.66	
Fuel	Lbs.	202.45	233.91	310.54	419.77	502.77	
Education	..	61.12	105.92	205.44	392.67	1158.40	
Pansupari	..As.	0.73	0.83	0.87	1.41	1.45	

APPENDIX III (*Contd.*)

Items	*Unit*	*Below* 50	*Rs.* 50-100	*Rs.* 100-150	*Rs.* 150-250	*Rs.* 250-350	*Rs.* 350-500
			PUNALUR				
Rice	Edangazhi	23.68	44.20	68.69	98.21	155.07	154.23
Condiments	Lbs.	5.08	8.08	11.05	14.76	19.21	27.50
Tapioca	,,	76.71	127.66	118.61	204.73	196.21	157.49
Pulses	,,	0.39	2.22	4.35	7.63	10.82	18.81
Vegetables	,,	1.63	5.79	9.73	16.77	24.80	43.69
Meat	,,	0.27	0.90	2.60	4.87	9.61	11.30
Fish	,,	1.94	6.78	8.62	11.03	15.79	17.04
Milk	Edangazhi	0.16	1.43	4.93	11.18	18.45	20.93
Tea etc,	,,	0.60	2.84	5.08	8.58	17.05	18.32
Oil	,,	0.56	1.02	1.56	2.37	3.67	4.78
Coconuts	Nos.	9.72	17.97	27.73	41.76	48.46	64.92
Clothing	Yds.	1.88	3.03	5.08	8.18	15.08	22.59
Washing	Nos.	6.00	12.60	20.20	34.60	54.00	95.00
Rent	As.	26.08	56.96	85.60	135.52	225.28	400.00
Light	Unit	0.75	1.28	3.31	5.09	7.84	9.60
Fuel	Lbs.	169.28	244.77	356.29	437.50	530 15	749.18
Education	As.	57.44	102.40	172 82	351.84	654.72	1743.20
Pansupari	As.	0.63	1.02	1 48	1.91	2.11	4.22
			PATHANAMTHITTA				
Rice	Edangazhi	21.70	40.24	57.46	76.91	98 89	116.35
Condiments	Lbs.	4.09	6.16	9.73	13.24	16.28	12.83
Tapioca	,,	60.22	92.45	128.95	151.93	179.16	61.70
Pulses	,,	1.03	3.81	6.90	11.77	17.32	28.34
Vegetables	,,	4.83	10.76	18.65	27.57	32.15	40.25
Meat	,,	0.32	1.38	3.63	8.07	19.96	39.42
Fish	,,	3.53	4.71	6.50	9.65	16.18	23.79
Milk	Edangazhi	0.29	1.84	6.39	11.61	22.70	37.88
Tea, Coffee etc.	Lbs.	2.50	4.87	7.71	11.54	21.27	24.83
Oil	Edangazhi	0.64	1.19	1.64	2.43	1.58	3.34
Coconuts	Nos.	13.53	24.04	37.44	47.08	59.43	52.36
Clothing	Yds.	1.43	2.71	5.34	8.36	12.36	26.90
Washing	Nos.	5.80	10.50	20.60	31.90	56.20	103.30
Rent	As.	19.04	48.80	96.66	179.68	304.00	373.28
Light	Unit	0.59	0.90	2.99	5.30	13.30	13.25
Fuel	Lbs.	156.70	152.12	431.21	597.06	1143.79	1143.79
Education	As.	39.04	84.00	172.48	416.00	755.84	1194.72
Pansupari	As.	0.57	0.85	1.18	1.60	2.15	19.74

APPENDIX—IV

Statement of Blocks Started in the Quilon District showing area and population etc. as on April 1, 1961

Sl. No	Taluk	Name of Bock	Present Status	Year of Starting	Area in sq. miles	Population	No. of villages/ Panchayats	Remarks
1	Kottarakara	Kottarakara	Stage II	1-4-1955	53.2	81501	6	Started as N. E. S. Block and converted into Stage II. with effect from 1-7-1961.
3	Pathanamthitta	Ranni	Stage I	2-10-1955	86.8	73592	6	
3	Karunagapally	Karunagapally	,,	1-4-1955	34.9	89194	6	
4	Quilon	Anchalummud	,,	2-10-1956	19.7	81223	3	
5	Kunnathur	Sasthamcotta	,,	2-10-1956	71.4	100584	5	
6	Pathanapuram	Pathanapuram	,,	2-10-1957	158.44	70201	4	
7	Kottarakara	Vettikavala	,,	1-4-1956	63.2	80518	6	
8	Pathanamthitta	Konni	,,	1-4-1958	67.1	82476	6	
9	Quilon	Chittumala	,,	1-4-1959	28.4	62156	3	Started as Pre-extension converted into Stage I on 1-4-1959
10	Pathanamthitta	Elanthur	,,	1-4-1960	47.45	92447	5	Started as Pre-Extension and converted into Stage I 1-4-1961
11	Karunagapally	Chavara	,,	2-10-1958	27.3	78840	4	Started as Pre-Extension and converted into Stage I on 1-4-1961
12	Karunagapally	Oachira	,,	2-10-1960	27.5	80086	4	Started as Pre-Extension and converted into Stage I on 2-10-1959
13	Quilon	Ithikara	Pre-Extension	1-4-1961	52.9	98102	6	Started as Pre-extension and converted into Stage I with effect from 1-10-1961

APPENDIX—V

Statement of the Progress of the Community Development Programme in Quilon District

	Unit	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	165-66 *Target*	*Increase* 1960-61 *over* 1950-51 %	*Increase* 1965-66 *over* 1960-61 %
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Blocks	Number	Nil	4	12	17	..	41.65
Villages covered	do.	Nil	22	73	107	..	46.58
Population covered (1961 Census)	do.	Nil	420,000	1,246,000	1,875,000	..	50.48

Note :
1. The figures given in Columns 4, 5 and 6 are the number of blocks existing as in the years given including pre-extension Block
2. Population given is according to 1961 Census and number of villages given are the Revenue villages according to recent delimitation.

APPENDIX VI

Statement showing the physical achievements and Peoples' contributions under the Community Development Programme for the years 1956 to 1961 in the Quilon District.

		Unit	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
1.	Compost pits dug	(Nos.)	1488	3522	6189	6897	11290
2.	Fertilisers distributed	(tons)	326.4	293	17706	35025	48873
3.	Insecticides ,,	(tons)	1.3	5	7	376	464
4.	Seeds ,,	(paras)	21.92	718	667	1082	389231
5.	Coconut seedlings ,,	(Nos.)	58.35	4473	16998	28685	26430
6.	Green manure seeds ,,	(Cwts)	8.5	6	7	1511	3462
7.	Implements ,,	(Nos.)	86	764	767	794	323
8.	Farmers/Youth Clubs	(Nos.)	33	22	23	11	12
9.	Japanese Method of paddy cultivation	(Acres)	10.16	2016	13627	8253	6139
10.	Demonstration plots	(Nos.)	228	465	1	..	2
11.	Crop competitions held	(Nos.)	4	59	18	50	52
12.	Breeding centres started	(Nos.)	..	..	4	1	2
13.	Pedigree bulls ssupplied	(Nos.)	..	3	4	4	24
14.	Insemination Natural	(Nos.)	..	..	108	231	313
15.	Insemination Artificial	(Nos.)	..	465	952	1387	2851
16.	Pedigree birds supplied	(Nos.)	53	63	321	184	1423
17.	Cattle treated	(Nos.)	31.54	4003	11299	11231	21630
18.	Bulls castrated	(Nos.)	215	235	1920	966	1594
19.	Poultry centres	(Nos.)	9	..	20	11	30
20.	Hatching eggs distributed	(Nos.)	1231	702	6555	5483	8233

APPENDIX—VI (*Contd.*)

		Unit	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
21.	Chicks hatched & distributed	(Nos.)	24	..	..	..	..
22.	Birds inoculated	(Nos.)	15232	11403	24956	15016	42314
23.	Fisheries & Fingerlings	(Nos.)	1000	100	..	10686	2834
24.	Pump sets hired out	(Nos.)	..	..	5	18	18
25.	Tanks repaired	(Nos.)	..	..	..	..	..
26.	Additional area brought under cultivation	(Acres)	..	..	..	..	..
27.	Demonstration plots for soil conservation	(Nos.)	..	..	1	..	2
28.	Wells constructed	(Nos.)	26	68	..	..	..
29.	Wells renovated	(Nos.)	50	8	..	..	..
30.	Soakage pits constructed	(Nos.)	17	23	83	818	224
31.	Rural Latrines constructed	(Nos.)	317	1125	555	799	3932
32.	Drains constructed	(Nos.)	17	1	7003	4241	911
33.	Squatting slabs supplied	(Nos.)	594	..	..	..	..
34.	Health centres	(Nos.)	1	8	18	14	1
35.	Aid given to existing Schools	(Nos.)	..	..	..	..	103
36.	Community recreation centres	(Nos.)	2	11	2	..	..
37.	Children's parks opened	(Nos.)	7	7	27	11	4
38.	Sports clubs organised	(Nos.)	109	71	101	35	..
39.	Aid given to sports clubs	(Rs.)	1552	..	..	..	..
40.	Adult literacy centres	(Nos.)	9	26	9	15	19
41.	New libraries and reading rooms opened	(Nos.)	14	23	65	2	28
42.	Adults benefited	(Nos.)	342	1124	1066	260	718
43.	Aid given to existing libraries	(Nos.)	40	..	..	..	..
44.	Books supplied to Libraries	(Nos.)	587	1149	4731	1232	1919

45.	Entertainments organised	(Nos.)	299	225	445	635	670
46.	Cultural clubs opened	(Nos.)	1	4	176	18	24
47.	Village Leaders & Young Farmers camps held	(Nos.)	..	8	49	..	47
48.	N. C. C., A. C. C., B. S. S. camps held	(Nos.)	170	3	8	5	4
49.	Village leaders organisation opened	(Nos.)	..	2	38	38	..
50.	Women's clubs	(Nos.)	35	24	38	32	47
51.	Aid given to existing clubs	(Nos.)	10	..	..	..	..
52.	Training centres opened	(Nos.)	..	..	..	..	..
53.	Pucca roads	(Miles)	5	61	32	..	..
54.	Katcha roads	(„)	94	63	218	33	..
55.	Culverts constructed	(Nos.)	82	..	94	27	9
56.	Foot bridges constructed	(Nos.)	4.3	..	..	..	10
57.	Bridges constructed	(Nos.)	4	..	..	..	..
58.	Training centres	(Nos.)	2	..	3	5	29
59.	Bee-hives supplied	(Nos.)	256	50	221	490	476
60.	Industrial Co-operative Societies	(Nos.)	..	5	18	43	20
61.	Other Co-operatives societies	(Nos.)	3	25	42	17	20
62.	Societies revitalised	(Nos.)	8	..	..	..	..
63.	Houses constructed	(Nos.)	..	..	12	..	..
64.	Houses occupied	(Nos.)	..	..	..	..	..
65.	Houses reconditioned	(Nos.)	..	..	..	..	..
66.	Labour valued	(Rs. '000)	60.39	218	168	68.63	133.70
67.	Land	(Acres)	42.91	23	48	5.99	5.20
68.	Land value	(Rs. '000)	187.83	77	48	18.47	..
69.	Others	(Rs. '000)	17.69	24	40	57.28	49

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Quilon District is divided both on geographical and functional basis for purposes of general administration. Geographically it is divided into two Revenue Divisions, six Taluks and 98 villages. Functionally the District administration is carried on through the various Departments of the State Government each of which has an office of its own at the district level. The District Collector is the pivot of the District admnistration and the District Officers of the various Departments in the District render technical advice to him in the discharge of his duties. The District Collector is a key functionary of Government having large powers and responsibilities. He has a dual role to play both as the agent of the Government and also as the representative of the people in the District. He is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. Thus he enjoys a position of power and prestige. As the head of the administration his duties and responsibilities fall broadly under the following heads.

Executive functions of the Collector

The Collector is the Chief Executive Officer of the District. Though the District Officials of the various Departments are under the immediate control of the respective Heads of Departments, the Collector exercises general supervision over them in regard to their non-technical work. On matters of general policy the decision of the District Collector is final in case of any difference of opinion between him and a District Officer. The Collector inspects all important offices and works undertaken in the District. In spite of the immense power vested in him the Collector generally restricts his inspection work to the following offices, viz., the Revenue Offices, the Police Stations, Educational Offices and Schools, Panchayats, Registration Offices, Excise and Sales Tax Offices, Hospitals and Dispensaries, Agricultural Offices, and Veterinary Offices and Dispensaries. The administrative control over Government buildings such as Rest Houses, Travellers' Bungalows etc., is also vested in him. Co-ordination of the activities of

various Departments by constant contacts with the officers concerned, control over local self-governing bodies with power to intervene, if necessary, contact with the public in Committees or during interviews with visitors, execution of Government policies such as National Savings Campaign, Grow More Food Campaign, Collection for the National Defence Fund etc., miscellaneous functions such as rationing and food control, and relief measures in times of emergencies like famines, floods, epidemics etc., also come within the purview of the functions of the District Collector. He is empowered to incur expenditure under discretionary grants up to Rs. 2,000 a year in order to relieve distress caused by floods, famines and other natural calamities. He can also spend a portion of this grant for other beneficial purposes. Moreover, any work which cannot be assigned to a well-defined or technical Department is usually entrusted to the Collector as a matter of expediency.

In his office the District Collector, Quilon, is assisted by a staff consisting of a Personal Assistant, a Sheristadar, three Head Clerks, an Income Tax Deputy Tahsildar, sixteen Upper Division Clerks, fifty-three Lower Division Clerks, two Stenographers, one Fair Copy Superintendent, one Upper Division Typist, eight Lower Division Typists, two Copyists, two Attenders, sixteen Peons, one Jeep Driver, one Ballot Box Depot Watcher, two Chowkidars, one Sergeant and one Gardener.

Revenue functions

The Collector is the Head of the Land Revenue Department at the district level. The major revenue duties include general supervision and control of the land records and the staff of the Revenue Department, promotion, transfer, demotion and punishments, etc., of the subordinate officials according to the rules framed by Government, supervision over the collection of revenue, submission of periodical reports to the Board of Revenue and the Government, and also hearing of appeals against the decisions of the subordinate Officers in matters connected with Land Revenue. In the administration of Land Revenue the District Collector, Quilon is assisted by two Revenue Divisional Officers, six Tahsildars, and 98 Village Officers.

Fiscal functions

In the field of fiscal administration the Collector was till recently responsible for the proper accounting of all money

received in and paid from the Government Treasuries in the District and for the submission of periodical returns to the Government and the Accountant General. The District Treasury, Quilon, is located in the Civil Lines itself and it was under the immediate control of a Treasury Deputy Collector (District Treasury Officer) who was also a Personal Assistant to the Collector. In addition to the District Treasury there have been six Sub Treasuries in this District with headquarters at Karunagapally, Quilon, Kottarakara, Punalur, Adur, and Pathanamthitta, each of which is under a Sub Treasury Officer. The Treasury Deputy Collector exercised personal supervision over their work and was responsible to the Collector for the proper administration of all the Treasuries in the District. In August 1963 the Government of Kerala introduced a new scheme for re-organisation of Treasury Administration in the State.[1] It provided for the complete separation of the Treasuries and Sub Treasuries in the State from the Land Revenue Department and their constitution into a new Department of Treasuries under a Director of Treasuries. The administrative control of the treasuries is vested in the Director of Treasuries with the formation of the new Department. Moreover considering the existing volume of work in the Quilon District Treasury and also in view of the fact that an Assistant Treasury Officer was being appointed to assist the District Treasury Officer Quilon in the discharge of his duties, the scheme also provided for the abolition of the Sub Treasury at Quilon. But the Collector continues to exercise the following powers even after the formation of the new Department:—

1. Monthly verification of cash balance of District Treasuries;
2. The emergency powers envisaged in Rules 23 and 68 of the Kerala Treasury Code, Vol. I;
3. The same powers over the District Treasury Officers which the Collector is now exercising over other District Officers.

Magisterial functions

The District Collector is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the District. Till recently he was functioning as a Magistrate for the administration of criminal justice within the scope of the Criminal Procedure Code. But

1 Vide G.O. (P) No. 465|63, Fin. dated 30th July 1963.

as a result of the separation of the executive from the judiciary with effect from May 1, 1955, the Collector and the Magistrates subordinate to him were deprived of their purely judicial functions. But the responsibility of maintaining law and order continues to rest with the Collector. Virtually the Collector is the Additional District Magistrate. The Collector and the Revenue Divisional Officers exercise powers in connection with the Police Administraton. Besides this, the Collector is responsible for the administration of several Acts, which are obviously adminstrative or executive in nature.

Apart from the above, the sanctioning and withdrawal of prosecutions, control over Government Pleaders, issue of certificates, enquiry into petitions, verification of character of candidates for appointment in Government Service, registration of foreigners etc. are also under the purview of the Collector functioning in the capacity of Additional District Magistrate. Now the Personal Assistant to the Collector is also given the powers of the Additional District Magistrate. Qualified Tahsildars are appointed as Executive II Class Magistrates having jurisdiction over the Taluks in which they function as Tahsildars.

There are the following Public Prosecutors (with Headquarters noted against each) for the prosecution of cases in the Quilon District, under the control of the Additional District Magistrate (Collector).

1.	One Assistant Public Prosecutor	Grade I Quilon.
2.	do.	Grade II Quilon.
3.	do.	Grade II Punalur.
4.	do.	Grade II Pathanamthitta.

Development and Planning

The Collector is the District Officer responsible for the administration of the Planning and Development Department of the Government at the district level and the implementation of various Plan schemes. The major developmental activities comprise of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, reclamation, health and rural sanitation, social education, communication, rural arts and crafts, and industries. The Community Development Programme which by its very nature is multipurpose seeks to embrace within its fold all the major developmental activities mentioned above, and it is the duty of the Collector to see that the programme is implemented effectively.

It has given him the complex role of the captain and co-ordinator over the entire field of development in the District and has added considerably to his work load.

For the developmental activities, the Quilon District is divided into Blocks and Panchayats. The development policies are implemented through a set of officers called the Block Development Officers assisted by technical personnel consisting of specialists selected from various Departments. The Quilon District has been delimited into 17 Blocks of which 14 are functioning. The Block Development Officers and the subordinate ministerial staff are attached to the Land Revenue Department and the technical officers to their respective Departments. The technical officers include Extension Officers for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Industries, Panchayats, Social Education Officer and Mukhya Sevika. Grama Sevak is the lowest officer at the village level.

District Development Council

With a view to ensuring the sustained interest of the people and making them give positive help and guidance to the Collector in the satisfactory discharge of his duties, various non-statutory bodies consisting of official and non-official members have been set up in all Districts of Kerala. The most important of such bodies is the District Development Council.

The Quilon District Development Council consists of official and non-official members. The official members of the District Development Council are the District Officers of the various Departments of Government and its Chairman is the Collector. The non-official members include all M.L.As and M.Ps from the District, the Chairman of the Quilon Municipality, representative of the Co-operative movement, representatives of the Panchayats in the District, representatives of the Social Service Agencies, representatives of the Trade Unions, representatives of the Political Parties, representative of Harijans and the representative of other special interests. The Personal Assistant to the Collector is the Secretary of the Council. The functions of the Council include (1) advising on the formation of the annual plan of development for the District within the general framework of the State Five Year Plan; (2) reviewing progress in the implementation of approved programmes of development; (3) recommending measures for the effective and speedy fulfilment of schemes of economic and social development and, more especially of

national extension and community projects, agricultural programmes, local development works, social services and village industries; (4) promoting public co-operation and participation in development programme and expanding local community effort both in urban and rural areas; (5) assisting the development of co-operatives and village panchayats; (6) promoting the small savings movement; (7) supervising the work of village Panchayats in respect of land reform, land management and rural development generally; (8) enlisting the active association and co-operation of teachers, students and others in the study and development of local resources; (9) providing opportunities for general education through fairs, exhibitions, seminars etc., and (10) training of members of Panchayats and Co-operatives.

The meetings of the District Development Council were held once in a month till recently in order to review the progress of the work. However, following the declaration of Emergency in the country by the President of India in October 1962 Government issued orders that as a measure of economy the District Development Councils need meet only once in two months. The agenda of the meeting and the progress reports are distributed among the members in advance. The non-official members make detailed enquiries about the progress of the works and the District Officers supply them with the requisite information. Each item of work to be undertaken is placed on the agenda at the request of the official members and a general discussion takes place. Till recently there were also Sub-Committees of the District Development Council formed for specific purposes, but they have been dissolved in the wake of the Emergency.

The Block Development Committees

The Block Development Committee is constituted in each Block to advise the Block Development Officer in carrying out the development works of the Block area.[1] There are 14 such Committees corresponding to the 14 Blocks in the District. They are Ranni, Kottarakara, Karunagapally, Pathanapuram, Vettikavala, Sasthamcottah, Chavara, Chittumala, Elanthur, Anchalummud, Oachira, Ithikara, Konni and Paracode. The Committee consists of the M.L.As and M.Ps representing the Block area. representatives of the Panchayats not exceeding

1 Prior to May 1963 this Committee was designated the Block Advisory Committee.

seven in number, one representative of the Co-operative Societies, one Social Worker, representative of Bharat Sevak Samaj, one representative of the Social Welfare Board, one representative of the Mahila Samajams and two or three other prominent non-officials. The Revenue Divisional Officer is the ex-officio Chairman and the Block Development Officer is the Secretary of the Committee. The first meeting of the Block Development Committee is presided over by the District Collector. The meetings are held once in a month. The Panchayats intimate to the Block Development Officers the works to be taken up in each Panchayat area in the form of resolutions fixing priority in the case of works of the same category. These works and other schemes are placed before the Block Development Committee for their approval.

The District Recruitment Board

The District Recruitment Board, Quilon, began functioning in 1959. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Committee (1958), a District Recruitment Board for each of the nine Districts was constituted with a member of the Public Service Commission as the Chairman of the Board and the District Collector as the member. The Board's office staff consists of an Officer-in-charge, a Clerk, a Typist, and a Peon. The function of the Board is to make selection for recruitment to about 400 categories of posts.[1] 14 additional posts have also been brought within the purview of the District Recruitment Board since then. Since these posts have not been excluded from the purview of the Public Service Commission under the Kerala Public Service Commission (Consultation) Regulation 1957, the selections made by the District Recruitment Board are treated as those made by the Public Service Commission.

The general rules followed by the Kerala Public Service Commission, as well as the rules of procedure of the Kerala Public Service Commission and the Kerala State and Subordinate Rules 1958, are generally applicable to the selections of the District Recruitment Board. Till February 1963 the District Recruitment Board, Quilon, and advised about 480 candidates for appointment to various categories of posts.

Offices at the District level

A good number of offices function in Quilon at the district level. Administratively they are under the control of their respective Heads of Departments. The functions of the

1 Vide G.O. MS. 902|Public (Rules) dated 17th October 1959.

most important offices are given in the relevent Chapters. The chief officers functioning at the district and regional levels in Quilon are the following.

1. District and Sessions Judge, Quilon.
2. District Agricultural Officer, Quilon.
3. District Employment Officer, Quilon.
4. District Information Officer, Quilon.
5. District Labour Officer, Quilon.
6. District Statistical Officer, Quilon.
7. District Transport Officer, Quilon.
8. District Transport Officer, Kottarakara.
9. District Welfare Officer, Quilon.
10. District Treasury Officer, Quilon.
11. District Veterinary Officer, Quilon.
12. District Educational Officer, Quilon.
13. District Educational Officer, Pathanamthitta.
14. District Medical Officer, Quilon.
15. District Registrar, Quilon
16. Superintendent of Police, Quilon.
17. Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads Division, Quilon.
18. Executive Engineer, Marine Division, Quilon.
19. Executive Engineer, Water Supply Scheme, Quilon.
20. Divisional Forest Officers at Punalur, Thenmala, Ranni and Konni.
21. Executive Engineer, Kallada Project Division, Kottarakara.
22. Executive Engineer, Pamba Project Division, Pathanamthitta.
23. District Panchayat Officer, Quilon.
24. Deputy Director of Panchayats, Quilon.
25. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Quilon.
26. Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Quilon.

The offices in the Quilon District which come directly under the Central Government are the following.

1. Central Storage Depot Office, Quilon.
2. Income Tax Office, Quilon.
3. R.M.S. Sorting Office, Quilon.
4. Office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Quilon.
5. Sub-Divisional Office of the Telegraph Engineering, Quilon.
6. Assistant Engineer's Office, Quilon-Ernakulam Railway.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Land Tenures

The lands in this District as elsewhere in the Travancore area of the State are classified under two broad categories viz., *Janmom* lands (belonging to *Janmis* or landlords) and *Pandaravaka* lands (belonging to the *Sirkar*). The extent of *Janmom* lands in this District is not considerable, but an enquiry into the origin and nature of such lands is still of academic interest.[1] The word *Janmom* has been interpreted to mean exclusive ownership of the soil, and the *Janmom* property as the absolute private property of the owner or proprietor. Generally *Janmom* lands were tax free and the *Janmis* as a rule never alienated lands by absolute sale except to other *Janmis,* whether *brahmaswoms* or *devaswoms*. The peculiarities of the *Janmom* tenure are:—

(i) that its normal condition is absolute freedom from taxation,

(ii) that this condition ceases the moment the land passes into the hands of others than *devaswom* or Brahman *Janmis* for a money consideration provided that the mere letting out of the lands to a tenant for rent does not vitiate the tenure,

(iii) that on such alienation taking place, the land becomes liable to a light tax to Government called *rajabhogom* which is a fee or light tax paid apparently in acknowledgement of fealty to the sovereign; the rate of *rajabhogom* varies and is said to be 1|8, 1|6, 1|5, 1|4 or 1|3 of the full assessment, the last three rates, however, being exceptional,

(iv) that the light assessment continues for ever as a burden on the estate, even though the *kanom* is redeemed,

(v) that if the *kanomdar* dies heirless, the land lapses to the *Sirkar,* the *Jenmi* being entitled only to any residue of rent (*michavaram*) payable to him by the deceased, and,

(vi) that if the *kanomdar* abandons the land as unfit for cultivation (*nirthul*), the *Sirkar* takes it and grants it again to any body who asks for it on full assessment.

The *Janmom* lands have been broadly classified into three classes, viz., (1) Lands that are entirely freehold and exempt

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1 For a detailed account of the different theories of the origin of *Janmom,* see *Kozhikode District Gazetteer*, pp. 518-26.

from payment of any kind of tax to Government under any circumstances, called 'Freehold', (2) Lands originally exempt from payment of tax but subsequently becoming liable under certain conditions, and (3) Lands paying *rajabhogam* or a light tax from the very beginning.

Under the first class are comprised (i) The *desams* attached to Manikanteswaram Pagoda (Kottarakara Taluk), (ii) The *desams* attached to Elamkunnappan Pagoda (Pathanapuram), (iii) The *desams* attached to Pangottu Krishnaswamy Pagoda (Kottarakara), (iv) The *desams* attached to Mannadi Bhagavathi (Kunnathur and Pathanapuram), (v) The *desams* belonging to Akavur Namboothiripad (Kottarakara), and (vi) *The desams* attached to Akavur and Umampally Namboothiripads (Quilon). In the revenue account of the Government these lands have been termed *Adhikara ozhivu* and *Desa ozhivu*. They consist of compact blocks of territory and have been free from tax of any kind and from all Government interference in the matter of revenue administration. Their owners have enjoyed absolute control over them in connection with their revenue and rents and taken from the ryots the *pattom* or rent as well as the *rajabhogom* which in the case of other lands would go to the State.

Under the second class are comprised (1) *devaswom* properties and (2) *brahmaswoms* or holdings of Malayali Brahmins. In their normal condition such lands have been exempt from tax but this condition ceased the moment the land passed into the hands of those other than *devaswom* or *brahmaswom Janmis* for a money consideration. On such alienation the lands became liable to a light tax called *rajabhogom* and the property so taxed became subject to escheat and was then taken over by the *Sirkar*, if the tenant were to die heirless. Moreover, if the land coming under this class were to be abandoned as *Nirthal* or unfit for cultivation, then also it was taken over by *Sirkar* and dealt with as *Sirkar Pattom* lands.

Under the third class are comprised the holdings of various escheats and others including *Madampimar*. These lands have been subject to *rajabhogom* from the very beginning. The tenure holds good as far as the land is not alienated by sale.

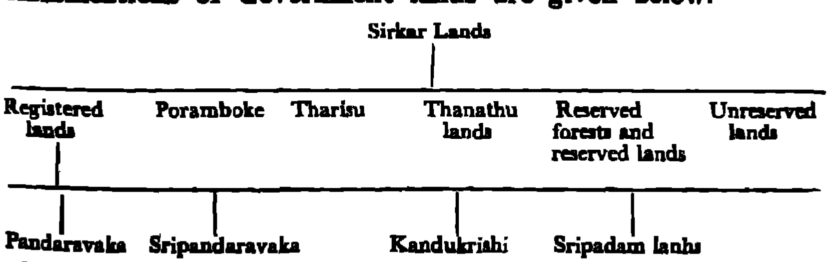
The *janmis* created various kinds of subordinate tenures under them. The most important among such tenures is the *kanapattom* tenure. *Kanapattom* is a combination of a lease and mortgage. It is periodically renewable on payment of a

certain percent of the mortgage amount. The *Kudiyan* enjoys the usufructs of the property demised, reserves a portion of it in lieu of interest on his *artham*, pays another portion as net rent or residual rent to the *Janmi*, pays Sirkar assessment, if any, and pays renewal fees and the produce of the land. Beside *Kanapattom* there are a number of other tenures relating to *Janmom* property e.g., *Verumpattom, Pattom, Kuzhikanom, Otti, Attiper* etc. *Verumpattom* is a simple lease without any debt or money consideration entering into the transaction. *Pattom* and *Kuzhikanom* resemble *verumpattom*, but they confer on the tenant the right to make improvement on the land for which he is entitled to receive compensation on the expiry of his term. *Otti* is a usufructuary mortgage in which an amount is borrowed by the *Janmi* on the security of his land and the property is left with the *kudiyan* for enjoyment of its produce as interest for the amount. *Attiper* is the out and out surrender of the *Janmi's right* by sale

Janmom lands were once exempted from taxation so long as they remained in the possession of the *Janmi*. On alienation such lands were subjected to a light assessment, viz., *rajabhogam*. But they were later subjected to basic tax. The Janmi and Kudiyan Acts gave the tenants of these lands full proprietory right subject to the payment of *janmikaram* to the *Janmi*. These lands were also later charged to basic tax. The Kerala Janmikaram Payment Abolition Act 1960 has however provided for the abolition of the payment of *janmikaram*.

Sirkar Lands

All lands other than *janmom* are known as *Pandaravaka* or *Sirkar* (Government) property. Both in theory and practice Government is primarily the land owner in respect of such lands and whatever rights the ryots have in them are derived from the State. The *Sirkar* lands also originally belonged to *Janmis*, but in course of time they came to be vested in the Government by conquest, escheat, accretions by the action of rivers, lakes and the sea, etc. The various sub-divisions and classifications of Government lands are given below.



In Quilon District the Government lands come mainly under the following heads:—(i) Registered lands, (ii) *Poramboke*, (iii) *Tharisu* and (iv) Reserved forests.

The bulk of the registered lands come under *Pandaravaka*. They are lands of which the State is the owner or landlord and all rights of the ryots are derived from the *Sirkar*. The tenant who was merely a tenant-at-will was made practically the owner of the land subject to the payment of Government tax by the Pattom Proclamation of 1040 K. E. (1864-65). The Devaswom Proclamation of 1077 K. E. (1901-1902) converted the whole of the *Sirkar Devaswom* lands into *pandaravaka* lands. The total area of land under *pandaravaka* in each of the Taluks in this District in 1962 is given below.

Taluk	*Nilam Extent*		*Paramba Extent*		*Total Extent*	
	Acre	Cent	Acre	Cent	Acre	Cent
Quilon	14,596	71.794	59,907	27.856	74,503	99.650
Kottarakara	16,789	12.920	88,374	47.046 1/2	105,163	59.966 1/2
Kunnathur	14,307	35.395	61,161	63.014	75,468	98.409
Pathanamthitta	6,616	91.752	90,020	91.955	96,637	83.707
Pathanapuram	10,789	71.844	71,003	85.247	81,793	57.091
Karunagapally	17,715	58.118	23,426	74.145	41,142	32.263

There are no *Sripandaravaka* lands (lands belonging to Sri Padmanabhaswami temple) or *Sripadam* lands (lands belonging to the female members of the Travancore royal family) in this District. The *Kandukrishi* lands which were the *stanam* properties of the Maharajas of Travancore lay scattered at one time in all parts of Travancore including Quilon. In 1949 the Maharaja surrendered all his rights over *Kandukrishi* lands to the Government and they were subjected to basic tax.

Poramboke Lands

Poramboke lands mean and include unassessed lands which are the property of the Government, used or reserved for public purposes or for the communal use of the villagers. They comprise:—(a) all public roads, streets, lanes and paths, bridges, ditches, dykes and fences on or beside the same, (b) the beds and banks of rivers, irrigation and drainage channels, traffic canals, tanks, lakes, backwaters and water courses, (c) markets, burial grounds, landing ghats; and (d) all other property of the Government which are declared to be *poramboke* under the Land Conservancy Regulation. All the lands

of this description within the limits of Cadastral Survey have been mostly recorded as *poramboke* in the Settlement Register. But there are lands which, though, not recorded as *poramboke* in the Settlement Register, fall under the above definition or are required to be treated as *poramboke* in the public interest.

Tharisu

These are waste lands at the disposal of the Government and are available for extension of cultivation consistently with the requirements of the public for communal purposes. These are surveyed and assessed or unassessed lands and recorded as *tharisu* in the settlement records as distinguished from *poramboke*.

A table containing the total area of land under *Poramboke* and *Tharisu* in each of the Taluks in this District in 1962 is given below.

Taluk	*Poramboke*		*Tharisu*	
	Acre	Cent	Acre	Cent
Quilon	17,935	33.631	1,793	34.959
Karunagapally	8,627	97.750	86	36.987
Kottarakara	14,915	56.180 1/2	16,221	48.853
Kunnathur	15,325	79.131	5,559	42.460
Pathanamthitta	29,794	60.293	3,183	41.165
Pathanapuram	37,895	82.167	185,158	86.492
Total	124,495	09.152 1/2	212,002	90.916

Survey and Settlement

The first settlement of which there is any record is that of 948 K.E. (1772-3 A.D.). It applied to all cultivated areas, both fields and gardens, but it was not accurate as it was only a *Kettezhuthu*, i. e., a record of what was heard. The next settlement was in 978 K.E. (1802-3 A.D.), i. e., 30 years later. It also comprised both fields and gardens. As in the earlier settlement no actual measurements were taken this time also, but the area and assessment were fixed by local inspection and information. In other words the new settlement was a *Kandezhuthu*, i. e., a record of what was seen. During both these settlements an estimate was made of the seed capacity of each field in terms of *para* and area and assessment on each field was fixed on the basis of this estimate. The assessment on wet lands was generally made payable partly in paddy and partly in money. Moreover, those garden and dry lands which

contained trees were subjected to a tree tax which was also fixed both in kind and money. Pure dry lands which contained no taxable trees were assessed on their seed capacity.

The next settlement was in 993 K.E. (1818 A.D.) which comprised only the garden and dry lands. It was carried out more or less on the lines of the previous settlement. There was another settlement in 1012 K.E. (1837 A.D.) which was also confined to garden and dry lands. The taking of field measurements and the adoption of different rates for different classes of coconut trees were the salient features of this settlement. Apart from the coconut, other trees like jack, areca, palmyrah, mango, etc. were also assessed to revenue. The settlement was not based on any uniform principle and numerous and varying rates were assessed for each kind of tree in each Taluk.

These earlier settlements were defective in many respects. They made no attempt to assess with any accuracy the area of each holding, its exact boundaries or the classification of the soil. No field or village maps or sketches of any kind were prepared. The revenue accounts were not brought up to date with the transfer of properties registered so much so the revenue officials did not know on whom to call for collection of arrears, if any. Further, no unit of measurement was recognised or followed. To make matters wrose there was glaring inequality in assessment as no consideration was given to the nature of the soil, facilities of cultivation, or the produce grown on the land. The settlement of 1012 K.E. (1837 A.D.) also contemplated periodical revision of garden lands once in twelve years with a view to ensuring increase of Government revenue, but such periodical revisions were not carried out. In view of these drawbacks and difficulties a special department was organised in 1876-77 to study and report on the question. One or two small tracts of territory were experimentally surveyed and the principles of the new settlement formulated and certain proposals made. Subsequently it was resolved to carry out a survey of the whole Travancore State which was to be followed by a Revenue Settlement. These were announced by the Royal Proclamation of Kumbhom 14, 1061 (February 24, 1886 A.D.).

The main features of the new survey and settlement, were declared to be accurate measurement, demarcation, mapping out, valuation of properties of every description, and registration of titles as the basis of sound revenue administration. A uniform standard of land measurement in acres and cents and of grains in *paras* and *edangazhis*

was laid down. Several old cesses were abolished and the old complicated tenures were simplified. The assessment of garden lands was made permanent without periodical revision. Many taxes were made uniform. Moreover, on the settlement being made each land holder was also to be provided with a *patta* showing the particulars of his land, the assessment due thereon, the deductions therefrom, the net demand etc. The settlement was to be declared unalterable for 30 years. In pursuance of this Proclamation the Survey and Settlement Departments were organised. The settlement was completed by the end of Midhunam 1085 (July 1910).

The settlement of 1061 K.E. (1886) proved unsatisfactory and caused vast disparities in the incidence of taxation. In regard to dry lands the method adopted in the earlier settlements, viz., taxing both the land and the trees standing thereon, was given up and new rates were adopted which were very heavy. The result was that similar lands situated in the same locality had to pay different rates of assessment. Land holders who had to pay, say 14 nP. (4 chuckrams) before the settlement, had after the settlement to pay Re. 1 (28 chuckrams) per acre. Ryots enjoying trees such as coconut, jack, arecanut, etc., had to pay only light taxes. The very same kind of trees which were taxed in South Travancore (e. g., mango, palmyrah etc.) were exempted from tax in North Travancore. Certain fertile pieces of land, by virtue of their location in hilly tracts or places far off from markets, had to be classified under a lower *taram* fixing low rates of assessment. Even though conditions had since changed, holders of these lands still continued to pay only lower taxes while owners who held the same kinds of lands in other places paid very high rates. Lands under favourable tenures were assessed only with a portion of the full assessment while those under some other tenures were charged with full assessment. Favourably assessed lands, it may be noted, came to 25% of the total tax paying lands in Travancore State.

Systems of Survey

It may be relevant in this connection to describe the different systems of survey which were adopted for purposes of revenue settlement. Cadastral Survey as the basis of revenue settlement was for the first time introduced in Travancore in 1058 K.E. (1882-83). The systems of survey used in the Madras Presidency were adopted here. They are the Tak

system, Base lines and Off sets system and the system of Triangles and Off sets.

Under the Tak system or triangular system no distinction was made between revenue and survey fields and each holding was demarcated and separately surveyed into triangles. The chances for error under this system were small, but the system was costly.

Under the Base line and Off sets system which was introduced towards the close of 1063 K.E. (1888 A.D.) a distinction was made between survey fields and revenue fields. The bends and trijunctions on the boundaries of revenue and survey fields were fixed by Off sets from long chain lines running between *khandom* stations and certain intermediate points where necessary. The system however proved defective in respect of gardens which were assessed on the number of trees grown.

A statement showing the distribution of Taluks in Quilon District according to the method of survey applied to each and the dates of commencement and completion of survey operations is given below.

Description of method of survey	*Period during which the method was in force*	*Name of Taluk*	*Date of commencement of survey operations*	*Date of completion of survey operations*
(a) Tak system	1058 to 1064 K. E.	Quilon	1059 K. E. (1883-84)	1064 K. E. (1888-89)
	(1882-83 to 1888-89)	Karunagapally	1060 K. E. (1884-85)	1065 K. E. (1889-90)
(b) Base lines and Off sets system	1064 to 1074 K. E. (1888-89 to 1898-99)	Kunnathur* Pathanapuram* Kottarakara*	1065 K. E. (1889-90)	1067 K. E. (1891-92)
	"	Pathanapuram	1068 K. E. (1892-93)	1070 K. E. (1894-95)

*In Kunnathur, Pathanamthitta and Kottarakara Taluks the work was begun under the original system in 1060 and was stopped in 1062.

In 1098 K.E. (1922-1923) a further change was made in the system of survey. The new system was known as the system of Triangles and Off sets. Under this method unlike in the two previous systems, the survey fields were split up into large triangles by lines running from trijunction to trijunction as far as possible and Off sets taken up to the bends on the sides of survey fields and revenue fields within each. The survey field was thus made capable of independent plotting.

All surveys which were undertaken subsequently have been carried out in this system.

The Superintendent of Survey and Land Records, Quilon is in charge of the survey operations in the District. His office is located in the Civil Lines, Quilon. He is under the administrative control of the District Collector and the functional control of the Director of Survey and Land Records, Kerala State. The Superintendent is assisted by a technical staff of surveyors, draftsmen etc. The Survey and Land Records office maintains such records as the original field measurement books, street survey field books, village maps etc.

Basic Tax

After the Settlement of 1886 there was no attempt at a comprehensive resettlement though such a step was envisaged by the sponsors of the settlement after a lapse of 30 years. In fact, what the Government decided was to give up the entire idea of a resettlement and introduce a new system of land tax. This tax known as the basic tax was introduced by the famous Land Tax Proclamation issued by the Maharaja of Travancore in 1121 K.E. (1946). According to this new system all lands irrespective of the nature of the tenures, the types of crops raised or the actual yield from them were subjected to a basic tax at the rate of four cash per acre (subsequently converted into 3 pies and again into 2 nP.). The table given in the next page shows the area of land assessed to basic tax in the six Taluks of the District and the revenue derived from them in the year 1960-61. A statement of the details regarding the land revenue demand and collection under Basic Tax for the year 1960-61 in the Quilon District is also given below.

Land Revenue Demand, Collection etc. 1960-61

Demand	Rs.
Current	14,34,098.30
Arrears	9,76,980.83
Total	24,11,079.13
Collection	11,34,168.47
Remission	11,835.75
Balance	12,65,074.93
Percentage of collection	0.47

Based on the Census of 1961 the incidence of taxation per head on the net Ayacut demand was 0.48 nP.

Statement of the area of land assessed to Basic Tax and Revenue derived therefrom 1960-61

Taluk	*Nilam*		*Paramba*		*Total*		*Basic Tax levied*	
							Wet	*Dry*
	Acre	Cent	Acre	Cent	Acre	Cent	Rs.	Rs.
Quilon	14,596	71.794	59,907	27.856	74,503	99.650	29,364.60	1,20,338.94
Kottarakara	16,789	12.920	88,374	47.046 1/2	105,163	59.966 1/2	33,627.79	1,76,859.55
Pathanapuram	10,789	71.844	71,003	85.247	81,793	57.091	21,599.73	1,42,077.27
Pathanamthitta	6,616	91.752	90,020	91.955	96,637	83.707	13,331.69	1,80,857.44
Kunnathur	14,307	35.395	61,161	63.014	75,468	98.409	28,663.45	1,22,446.32
Karunagapally	17,715	58.118	23,426	74.145	41,142	32.263	35,545.66	47,041.76

It may be mentioned in this connection that the system of Basic Tax is being scrapped in Kerala under a new legislative measure (The Kerala Land Revenue Settlement and Assessment (Revival) Bill 1963) which is on the anvil. In 1962 the Kerala High Court declared the Kerala Land Tax Act (Act XIII of 1961) in its application to the Malabar and Cochin areas as unconstitutional as a result of which no land revenue could be collected from these areas. The Act was held invalid on the ground that under the system of Basic Tax there was no reasonable classification of lands for the purpose of levy. In the wake of this judgment the Government of Kerala have proposed a new land revenue assessment of lands for the whole State. But as some time is required for it they have decided to revive the land revenue settlement prevailing in the various parts of the State immediately before the introduction of the Basic Tax under the impugned Act. Under the provisions of the new Bill it is proposed to revive in the Travancore area the old settlement and levy the settlement rates prevailing prior to 1946. As stated, this is envisaged only as a transitory measure pending a comprehensive survey and settlement of lands in Kerala with a view to introducing a uniform system of land revenue assessment throughout the State.

Plantation Tax

The Kerala Plantations (Additional Tax) Act 1960 came into force on April 1, 1960. According to this Act all holders of plantations, irrespective of their capacity, (as owners, tenants, mortgagees, trustees, receivers, managers or in any other capacity) are liable to pay, in addition to the basic tax, a plantation tax at the following rates specified in the Schedule to the Act.

Extent	*Rate*
1. Where the aggregate extent of plantations held by a person is below five acres	Nil
2. Where the aggregate extent of plantations held by a person is below five acres or more	
(a) on the first two acres	Nil
(b) on the remaining extent	Rs. 8 per acre.

It may be noted that 'Plantation' for the purpose of this Act includes coconut trees, arecanut trees, rubber, coffee, tea and cardamom plants, and pepper vines. The extent of plantations held by a person may ordinarily be revised at the end of five years. The following table shows the number of

plantations assessed and the revenue derived from the Plantation Tax in Quilon District as on June 30, 1962.

Plantation Tax Assessment as on June 30, 1962

Taluk	*No. of assessees*	*Amount assessed*	*Amount collected*
		Rs.	Rs.
Quilon	337	4,675.18	1,214.74
Kottarakara	1,418	2,211.10	2,211.10
Pathanapuram	697	1.89,711.18	1,40,209.26
Pathanamthitta	712	1,71,711.03	58,049.63
Karunagapally	128	1,184.64	1,030.25
Kunnathur	227	14,022.08	9,190.27

Irrigation Cess

Irrigation cess is collected on a small scale from certain areas of the Quilon, Kottarakara and Kunnathur Taluks in this District. But the income from this cess is negligible. In 1958-59 the total demand under irrigation cess was Rs. 7,984 out of which only a sum of Rs. 85 was collected. There has been no increase in irrigation revenue in later years. The position as on 31st May 1962 was as follows.

Taluk	*Demand*	*Collection*	*Balance*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Quilon	150.33	1.76	148.57
Kottarakara	493.49	..	493.49
Kunnathur	5,215.72	11.59	5,204.13

Land Assignment

The control and maintenance of Government lands in the District are governed by the Land Conservancy Act of 1958, Land Assignment Act of 1960, Puduval rules of 1932, Kuthakapattom rules of 1947 and Land Assignment Rules dated October 18, 1958.

The implementation of the Land Assignment Rules commenced in 1958. Under rule 12 of these Rules Taluk Land Assignment Committees were constituted in the Quilon District in 1958[1]. But the rule was amended on October 13, 1960, and in pursuance of the amendment, Government ordered the abolition of the then existing Land Assignment Committees

1 Vide G.O.(MS) 72 dated 22-1-1958.

and decided to constitute new Land Assignment Advisory Committees[1]. Accordingly the new Taluk Land Assignment Advisory Committees in the Quilon District were constituted on June 30, 1960. These committees are still functioning. Each committee consists of five members. The Tahsildar of the Taluk is the official member and Chairman of the Committee and four non-official members are nominated from the Congress, the P.S.P., the Muslim League and the Communist parties in consultation with their District units. But in Karunagapally Taluk instead of a member of the Muslim League a member of the R.S.P. has been nominated as the non-official member.

The Land Assignment work in this District has been progressing satisfactorily. The applications for land received up to August 20, 1960 (the last date fixed for presenting applications) are being considered. The total number of applications received from the District was 72,123. The total extent of Government land available for assignment in this District is 47,924 acres. The following table will give an idea of the progress in Land Assignment work in each Taluk of the District till the end of June 1962.

Progress of Land Assignment work in the Quilon District

Taluk	*Total area available for registry* Acres	*Total area assigned till the end of June* 1962 Acres	*No. of Pattadars to whom land was assigned till the end of June* 1962
Quilon	1,628	821	1,554
Kottarakara	15,528	3,058	2,853
Kunnathur	2,593	1,363	2,152
Pathanapuram	10,175	1,441	1,651
Pathanamthitta	17,865	981	1,037
Karunagapally	135	67	433
Total	47,924	7,731	9,680

Land Acquisition

The Travancore Land Acquisition Act XI of 1089 K.E. (1913-14) is still in force and the provisions contained therein are followed invariably for acquiring lands required for Government and public purposes. According to the above

1 Vide No. G.O.(MS) 201|Rev. dated 17-3-1960.

Act the District Collector is the Land Acquisition Officer. But the powers of the District Collector have been delegated to the Revenue Divisional Officers who are also functioning as Land Acquisition Officers. The Tahsildars have been empowered to pass awards in acquisition on payment of nominal compensation. There are also two other Land Acquisition Officers having jurisdiction in this Distrct. They are the Special Land Acquisition Officer, P.W.D. Southern Circle, Trivandrum, and the Special Land Acquisition Tahsildar for Harijan Welfare Department, Trivandrum. The works of all Land Acquisition Officers including the Special Land Acquisition Officers are supervised by the Collector. A monthly report showing the progress of Land Acquisition work relating to this District is regularly being sent to the Board of Revenue with a review of the work of the various Land Acquisition Officers. As regards the lands that are offered as gifts for public purposes, proceedings are taken under the Kerala Land Relinquishment Act of 1958.

Administrative Set-up of the Land Revenue Department

The District Collector is the head of the Land Revenue Department in the District. The staff pattern of the Collector's Office has already been given in Chapter X. The heirarchy of other officials under the immediate control of the Collector for the administration of land revenue includes 2 Revenue Divisional Officers with headquarters at Quilon and Adur, 6 Tahsildars (one in each Taluk), 6 Deputy Tahsildars (1 in each Taluk), 3 Civil Supplies Deputy Tahsildars (1 in Quilon Taluk and 1 in each Revenue Divisional Office), 4 Land Assignment Deputy Tahsildars (2 in each Revenue Divisional Office), 98 Village Officers and 189 Village Assistants. The powers and functions of the Revenue Divisional Officers run almost on parallel lines with those of the Collector. They conduct the *jamabandy* or annual inspection and audit village accounts and registers in accordance with the programme laid down by the Collector. The Tahsildar in charge of each Taluk is primarily the Revenue Official responsible for the collection of revenue, but he is also expected to be in direct contact with the people at all levels and to have first hand knowledge of the conditions of every village under his jurisdiction. The Tahsildar is assisted in each village by Village Officers and Village Assistants.

LAND REFORMS

The Royal Proclamation of Edavam 21, 1040 K.E. (2nd June 1865) is the earliest attempt at land reform in Travancore. This Proclamation which has been looked upon as the 'Magna Carta of the Travancore ryot" enfranchised the Sirkar *Pattom* lands and converted the large body of ryots from the position of mere tenants-at-will to that of full proprietors. By this Proclamation the ryots were conferred ownership rights, heritable, saleable and otherwise transferable, subject to the obligation of paying the tax assessed on them. The ryot could hereafter invest his labour and capital and effect substantial improvements on the land. It was clearly laid down that Government would acquire these lands only for public purposes, and that whenever such acquisition was made, compensation would be paid not only for the ryot's improvements but also for the land itself. The Proclamation conferred on the ryot fixity of tenure by checking arbitrary evictions of all kinds and by restricting the demand for exorbitant claims by the Government. Following the Proclamation several vexatious taxes were abolished and strict orders were issued that the maximum rate of land tax which was prescribed by the Proclamation should not be exceeded.

The Proclamation of Karkatakam 25, 1042 K.E. (August 8, 1867) is also another measure of far-reaching consequence. It was promulgated to guarantee to the tenants of the *janmom* lands permanency of occupation rights and to prohibit their indiscriminate eviction from land ensuring at the same time the payment of all legitimate dues to the *jänmis*. The rights and obligations of the landlord and the tenant were thus equitably adjusted to their mutual advantage.

An important Act passed in 1068 K. E. (1892-1893) abolished the old practice of unrestrained coercive processes and laid down a legal procedure to safeguard the interests of land holders. The Janmi-Kudiyan Act of 1071 (1895-96) made detailed provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of *Janmis* and tenants in furtherence of the Proclamation of 1042. The next land mark in the history of land reforms is the Janmi-Kudiyan (Amendment) Regulation of 1108 (1932-33). Far-reaching changes were made by this Regulation. The *janmis* who were regarded as landholders were practically reduced to the position of persons entitled merely to certain dues called *Janmikaram* which are a charge on

the land. The tenants became practically the owners of the land subject to the payment of the *janmi's* dues. Those *janmi's* dues which were payable on specific occasions were converted into annual payments which added along with the annual *michavaram* were termed *janmikaram*.

In spite of the various attempts made now and then to protect the rights of the tenants complaints of eviction continued to be heard from various sources. Hence the subject of land reforms and protection of tenant rights received the serious attention of the Government in the post-Independence era. The Travancore-Cochin Government passed the Stay of Execution Proceedings Act in 1950 in order to give protection to the ryots from arbitrary eviction. After the birth of Kerala State the Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings Act 1957 was passed to stay eviction of tenants, *kudikidappukar* and certain other classes of persons cultivating land under various tenures pending the enactment of a comprehensive legislation relating to tenancy and agrarian reforms. In 1958 was passed the Kerala Agriculturists Debt Relief Act. It provided for repayment of debts in 17 half-yearly instalments as well as for scaling down the debts incurred prior to June 1, 1940. This was a measure intended to help the agriculturists. Another important legislative measure was the Kerala Compensation for Tenants Improvement Act 1958 which provides for compensation to tenants at the rate of 15 times the net annual yield for trees planted by them and actual value for permanent structures put up by them. The Act conferred on the tenants the right to compensation for improvements effected by them even if there is a contract to the contrary stipulated in the deed providing for lease or *otti*.

The most revolutionary piece of land reform introduced in Kerala in recent years is the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act of 1960 (Act IV of 1961) which has now become defunct. The Act sought to fix a ceiling on the extent of land that could be held by a family or by any adult unmarried person. All lands in excess of the ceiling were to be surrendered to the Government on payment of compensation. Lands so surrendered were to be distributed among the landless. The tenants were also given fixity of tenure over their holdings and they could be evicted by the landlord only in very exceptional circumstances. Moreover, fair rents in respect of holdings were to be fixed by Land Tribunals set up for the purpose. In Quilon District two Land Tribunals were set up on March 1,

1961 with headquarters at Quilon and Adur respectively under the provisions of the Act. Up to July 1962 the Quilon Land Tribunal received 577 cases and disposed of 263 while the Adur Land Tribunal received 652 cases out of which 386 were disposed. It was while the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act (1960) was being progressively implemented that the Kerala High Court delivered two important judgements in 1962 declaring some of the provisions of the Act as unconstitutional in their application to the Malabar and Travancore areas of the State. In the wake of these judicial decisions, the Kerala Tenants and Kudikidappukars Protection Ordinance was promulgated by the Governor in December 1962. It provided for the stay of all suits and proceedings for eviction of tenants from their holdings as well as for the recovery of arrears of rent which accrued due from a tenant before the 15th February 1961. The Ordinance was later replaced by an Act of the Legislature in 1963. The Kerala Agrarian Relations Act was also in the meantime removed from the statute book pending the enactment of a more comprehensive and flawless legislation pertaining to tenancy and agrarian reforms.[1]

Two more Acts which are important in the history of recent land reforms in this District are the Jenmikaram Payment (Abolition) Act 1960 and the Pattazhi Devaswom Lands (Vesting and Enfranchisement) Act 1961. The former Act provides for the abolition of the payment of *janmikaram* (rent) due to the *janmis* and confers full proprietory rights on the *kudiyans*. The latter Act confers certain benefits on the tenants residing in the lands belonging to the Pattazhi Devaswoms in the Pathanapuram Taluk of this District. It gives full proprietory rights to the tenants of the Pattazhi Devaswom lands and thus seeks to remedy one of their long standing grievances. In view of the special importance of the Pattazhi Devaswom Lands Act in the history of land reform in this District, the circumstances leading to its enactment and its main provisions are dealt with separately.

Pattazhi Devaswom Lands Act (1961)

The lands in Pattazhi were given as gift in favour of Pattazhi Devi temple by the ruler of Kottarakara on Meenam 22, 934 Kollam Era (1759 A.D.) after Kottarakara was

1 The Kerala Land Reforms Bill has since been passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in December 1963 and it has received Presidential assent on December 31, 1963.

amalgamated to Travancore. After his accession Rama Varma the ruler of Travancore gave the lands in 934 K.E. (1759 A.D.) as *'Karamozhivu Danam'* to Kampithan, the administrator of the Devi Temple on the basis of the information received from the ruler of Kottarakara. The original document in copper pertaining to the above gift (*Chempu Pattayam*) is available in the Central Vernacular Records, Trivandrum. On the basis of the above gift an area of 9,814.05 acres excluding 596.64 acres of *Pandaravaka* lands is under the control of Pattazhi Devaswom and basic tax was being charged on these lands.

At the time of the last Settlement Patta No. 1 has been assigned in favour of Pattazhi Mannadi Bhagavathi for the Pattazhi Devaswom lands. Major portion of these lands has been given to *Kudiyans* on *Venpattom*. *Venpattom* is seen to have been generally given for a period of 12 years as per Government proceedings dated June, 5, 1913 on the ground that *Kudiyans* would have no incentive to improve the land if the *pattom* was given for a lesser period. It is stated that the above Government proceedings are based on a decision of the Travancore High Court. *Pattom* for wet lands has been fixed in paddy and for garden lands in money. The *pattom* fixed for wet lands according to the fertility of soil, ranges between 2 *paras* to 5 *paras* for 1 *para* of paddy land and the *pattom* fixed for garden lands ranges from 4 *chuckrams* (2¼ As) to Rs. 1-8-0 per acre. In 1953 the *Kudiyans* and the Devaswom Board came to a compromise in regard to garden lands agreeing to pay at the rate of 3 Ps. per cent, to the Devaswom besides Basic tax and Panchayat cess. As regards wet lands the *Pattom* fixed in *Venpattom* deeds has to be paid. Puduval lands within the Devaswom *Sanketham* are also being given on *Venpattom* fixing 5 *panams* as *pattom*.

It is stipulated in the *Venpattom* deeds that if the conditions laid down therein are violated, the land will be resumed by the Devaswom on payment of ¾ value of improvements on the land. The terms of the *Venpattom* deeds show that no sort of permanent right is vested with the *kudiyans*. But the *kudiyans* are enjoying the lands making improvements and constructing buildings as if they own a permanent right. There are no instances of redemption of any property from the *kudiyans*. Alienations are being made by *kudiyans* and transfer of registry is also being effected by the Devaswom. The *kudiyans* are also permitted by the Devaswom to cut down

trees excluding royal trees on *Venpattom* lands from the year 1952 onwards. Thus though the terms in the *Venpattom* deeds do not give the *kudiyans* any permanent right, they are found to be enjoying some sort of permanent right in practice.

There is another set of land within the *Sankethom* belonging to *Janmis* like Akavoor Mana etc. The janmis have given these lands to *kudiyans* on *Kanom* and *janmikaram* has been fixed for these lands. The *kudiyans* in respect of these lands pay *janmikaram* to the *janmis* and 1|8 of the Pattom to Devaswom. The 1|8 right due to Devaswom is known as '*Desabhogom*' or *Rajabhogom*.

Thirdly there are certain lands known as *Thettam* lands. *Thettam* lands are those for which the *kudiyans* have paid to Devaswom a nominal value. Devaswom receives from the *kudiyans* of these *Thettam* lands 1 *para* of paddy for a *para* of paddy land. If the *pattom* fixed is to be paid in money, the commutation rate adopted by the Devaswom is Re. 1 As. 8 Ps. 0 per *para* of paddy in regard to the *Venpattom* lands, Re. 1 As. 4 Ps. 0 on *Thettam* lands and As. 6, Ps. 3 on *Janmom* lands.

The Devaswom is empowered to exercise the powers under the Revenue Recovery Act in case of accumulation of arrears of rent. But no bidders came forward to bid in the auction of immovables. Even if the lands are bid in favour of the Devaswom, they have again to be given to others, but this will help only to increase arrears. The people in general were against the existing tenure and welcomed a feasible settlement agreeable to them and conducive to the interests of the temple. These circumstances led to the passing of the Pattazhi Devaswom Lands (Vesting and Enfranchisement) Act 1961.

As per the provisions of the Act the Devaswom has no right over the lands from April 1, 1959 onwards. Section 6 of the Act lays down that the Government shall, by way of compensation for the extinguishment of the rights, claims and interests of the temple under Section 4 of the Act, pay to the temple a sum of Rs. 4,75,000. The amount of compensation payable will be paid in cash and bear interest at the rate of 4 per annum from April 1, 1959 till the date of payment. In consideration of the right vested in the tenants under Section 5 the tenants are liable to pay to the Government an amount equal to nine times the nominal rent on the lands comprised in the holdings where such lands are adopted for the cultivation of paddy and 5 times the annual rent in other

cases. The Basic Tax and the Panchayat Tax are to be collected from the parties. *Pattas* are to be issued to the tenants after the settlement of the lands and the tenants will get absolute right over the properties as in the case of *pandarapattom* lands in the State.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax

The Travancore-Cochin General Sales Tax Act (Act XI of 1125 (1950) is in force in this District. Based on the nature of transactions and consumption of goods certain articles are brought under a schedule on single point on the first sale or last purchase within the State. The ordinary rate of tax is 2 Naya paise per Rupee except for goods defined otherwise. All inter-state transactions are governed by the Central Sales Tax Act (Act XXII of 1950) in force throughout the Indian Union. The State officials are empowered to administer the provisions of this Act and the Rules framed thereunder. In regard to Agricultural Income Tax, the Travancore-Cochin Agricultural Income Tax Act (Act XXII of 1950) as amended by Act XIII of 1960 is in force. The minimum taxable limit for agricultural income is Rs. 3,600. Both the Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax are administered by the Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax Department.

The Head of the Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax Department in the State is the Board of Revenue. Under the Board there are three zonal Deputy Commissioners each having jurisdiction over three Districts. For each District there is a District Officer designated as the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner. Under the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner, Quilon, there were 7 Sales Tax Offices, one Agricultural Income Tax Office and one Sales Tax Check Post. But recently the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Income Tax Office was shifted to the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner (Special), Kottayam. Out of the 7 Sales Tax Offices, 4 offices named Circles are accommodated in the Civil Lines Quilon. Of the four circles, one is a Special Circle where files having a turnover of Rs. 2 lakhs and above and all files relating to cashew dealers are dealt with. Eight Sales Tax Officers including one Reserve Sales Tax Officer, 5 Assistant Sales Tax Officers, and 4 Inspectors work in the various Sub-Offices and one Check Post Inspector at the Check Post. Their main

functions are the scrutiny of assessment records, inspection of business places, investigation on very important dealers, cross verification of the transactions of dealers, checking of vehicles, collection of materials from institutions related to trade or commerce for purpose of assessment etc. The details of the headquarters and jurisdictions of the various Sales Tax Offices in this District are given below.

	Name of Office	*Headquarters*	*Jurisdiction*
1.	Inspecting Assistant Commissioner's Office	Quilon (Civil Lines)	Quilon District.
2.	Sales Tax Office, I Circle, Quilon	do.	Wards of Mundakkal, Pattathanam Andamukkom, Cantonment and Thamarakulam of the Quilon Municipality.
3.	Sales Tax Office, II Circle Quilon	Quilon (Civil Lines)	Asramam ward of the Quilon Municipality area and Quilon Taluk excluding the other wards of the Quilon Municipality area and cheries of Kannimel, Meenathunad, Sakthikulangara of Quilon village not included in the Municipal area.
4	Do. III do.	do.	Wards Vadayattukotta, Vadakumbhagom, Pallithottam, Beach, Punnathala, Kottakakom Thevally, Cutcherry, Palace Kureepuzha, Manaikulangara of Quilon Municipality, Cheries of Kannimel Meenathu, Sakthikulangara of Quilon village not included in the Quilon Municipal area and Karunagapally Taluk.
5	Do. Spl. do.	do.	Has been given District-wide jurisdiction but for actual assessment work will concentrate only in specified areas and on specified commodities, ie., will deal with all files relating to assessees in cashew in the entire Quilon District besides the files from the Quilon Taluk whose turnover is Rs. 2 lakhs and above either under General Sales Tax or Central Sales Tax Act.
6.	Sales Tax Office, Adur	Adur	Kunnathur and Kottarakara Taluks
7.	Sales Tax Office, Punalur	Punalur	Pathanapuram Taluk
8.	Sales Tax Office, Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta Taluk

The particulars of revenue from General Sales Tax, Central Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax for the period 1958 to 1961 are given below.

Year	*General Sales Tax*	*Central Sales Tax*	*Agricultural Income Tax*
1958-59	59,53,739.83	2,74,603.06	19,158.32
1959-60	70,00,608.34	3,95,168.87	18,514.22
1960-61	69,98,315.07	11,74,714.04	2,12,607.55

Stamp Revenue

The revenue realised by way of sale of Stamps is one of the major items of revenue to the State. The sale is effected through the Government Treasuries. There are seven Treasuries in Quilon District including the District Treasury, Quilon. In the District Treasury there is no stock of any kind of stamps. Instead, the Sub-Treasury, Quilon is stocking the stamps. The other Sub-Treasuries in this District are Kottarakara, Pathanapuram, Pathanamthitta, Kunnathur and Karunagapally. All these Sub-Treasuries stock Stamps of the following kinds:—(1) General Stamps which include 5 nP. stamps and other non-judicial stamps, (2) Court Fee Stamps and (3) Service Postage Stamps.

The Sub-Treasuries get General Stamps and Court Fee Stamps direct from the General Stamp Depot, Trivandrum on submitting indents for the same according to their requirements. The Service Postage Stamps are obtained from the Controller of Stamps, Central Stamp Store, Nasik Road Central Railway. The Sub-Treasury Quilon which works as a Sub-Depot in the case of Service Postage Stamps stocks the Service Postage Stamps and supplies them to the Sub-Treasuries on their requests. Court Fee Stamps and General Stamps are issued to Vendors from the Sub-Treasuries for sale up to the value of Rs. 50 in the case of Court Fee Stamps and up to Rs. 400 in the case of General Stamps on discount basis. The discount is allowed at the rates sanctioned by Government[1]. It is granted to Vendors not in cash but in Stamps. The Service Postage Stamps are issued from the Sub-Treasuries to the Government Offices on presentation of Contingent bills for service postage stamps and the value thereof is realised by transfer-credit from the revenue of the concerned Departments.

1 Government Order G1-58285|60|R.D., dated 29-12-60.

The average monthly revenue realised on account of the sale of Stamps in this District in 1961-62 is as shown below.

	Rs.
Court Fee Stamps	38,200
General Stamps	1,31,200
Service Postage Stamps	18,100

Registration Department

The Quilon Registration District functions with its headquarters in Quilon town. The District Registrar, Quilon, is the head of the Registration Department at the district level. His office is housed in the Civil Lines. The Registrar is the inspecting and supervising Officer of the Sub-Registry Offices in this District. His main work is the inspection of the Sub-Registry Offices. The Registrar inspects a Sub-Registry Office once in every six months. Apart from this, he functions as Registrar under the Special Marriage Act (Act 43 of 1954) and Travancore Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act (Act XII of 1955). The authority to renew the licences of District and Sub-District Document Writers and Scribes is also vested in him. Closed Wills are deposited in the Registrar's Office. They are opened and registered on recepit of applications from the legal heirs after the death of the depositor. The Registrar also functions as Collector under the Stamp Act. Appeals on the refusal by the Sub-Registrars to register documents are heard and decided by the Registrar. Appeals on his decisions have to go to the Court.

The Quilon Sub-Registry Office is amalgamated with the Registrar's Office. The Sub-Registrar of that office in addition to his own powers and duties as Sub-Registrar exercises the following functions in the absence of the Registrar.

1. Registration under Section 30(1) of the Registration Act.
2. Authentication of powers of Attorney as per Section 33(1)(a).
3. Deposits, Delivery and opening of sealed covers under Sections 42 and 43.
4. Receipt of Appeals and Applications under Sections 72 and 73.
5. Issue of Process.

Apart from this he carries on the correspondence ordered by the Registrar.

Another Officer in the grade of II Grade Sub-Registrar functions as Chitti Auditor. His office is attached to the Registrar's Office. His main function is to audit the accounts of *chitties*. He conducts enquiries regarding the unauthorised conduct of *chitties* and on petitions received against the foremen of *chitties*. He is under the control of the Registrar.

There are 24 Sub-Registry Offices in this District. The list of Sub-Registry Offices is given at Appendix. Before the formation of Alleppey Registration District on June 1, 1962 there were 34 offices in this District. Out of these 34 offices 18 are included in the present Quilon District. Six new Offices were opened in June 1, 1962 consequent on the realignment of the Registration Districts and Sub-Districts. The Sub-Registry Office is under the supervision and control of the Sub-Registrar. There are two grades among the Sub-Registrars. The 1st Grade is in the Gazetted rank in the scale of pay Rs. 200-300. The 2nd Grade is in the scale of pay Rs. 125-200. The main function of the Sub-Registrar is the registration of documents. He also functions as the *ex-officio* Chitti Registrar under the Chitties Act of 1120. In offices where there is heavy work there are Joint Sub-Registrars to help the Sub-Registrar in the registration work. The general administration of the office is vested with the senior Sub-Registrar. The seniormost Clerk in the office functions as the Head Clerk. The other Clerks do the work of copying and indexing the documents. The copies of documents and encumbrance certificates are issued on application from the parties. In 1960-61 alone 215,234 documents were registered with the Sub-Registry Offices in this District. The total value of these documents came to Rs. 13,91,25,638. The total revenue derived from the Registration Department in this District during the same year came to Rs. 11,89,569.97 and the expenditure to Rs. 5,30,597.45.

Excise Department

The Excise and Prohibition administration in the Quilon District is under the direct supervision and control of an Assistant Excise Commissioner. For administrative convenience and for the effective enforcement of the Acts and Rules relating to the Excise and Prohibition laws the District has been divided into 7 Excise Ranges each of whch is under an Excise Inspector and staff as detailed below.

Quilon Range

Co-terminous with the Quilon Revenue Taluk with Headquarters at Quilon.

STAFF

	Designation.	*No. of posts.*
1.	Excise Inspector	1
2.	Preventive Officers	6
3.	I Grade Excise Guards	9
4.	II Grade Excise Guards	18

Kuarunagapally Range

Co-terminous with the Karunagapally Taluk with Headquarters at Karunagapally.

STAFF

	Designation.	*No. of posts.*
1.	Excise Inspector	1
2.	Preventive Officers	4
3.	I Grade Excise Guards	4
4.	II Grade Excise Guards	8

Kunnathur Range

Co-terminous with the Kunnathur Taluk with Headquarters at Paracode.

STAFF

	Designation.	*No. of posts.*
1.	Excise Inspector	1
2.	Preventive Officers	4
3.	I Grade Excise Guards	5
4.	II Grade Excise Guards	10

Pathanamthitta Range

Co-terminous with the Pathanamthitta Revenue Taluk with Headquarters at Pathanamthitta.

STAFF

	Designation.	*No. of posts.*
1.	Excise Inspector	1
2.	Preventive Officers	6
3.	I Grade Excise Guards	6
4.	II Grade Excise Guards	12

Pathanapuram Range

Co-terminous with the Pathanapuram Revenue Taluk with Headquarters at Punalur.

STAFF

Designation.	No. of posts.
1. Excise Inspector	1
2. Preventive Officers	7
3. I Grade Excise Guards	9
4. II Grade Excise Guards	16

Kottarakara Range

Forms part of Kottarakara Taluk i. e., Melila, Vettikavala, Kottarakara, Mylom, Kulakada, Ezhukone, Neduvathur, Pavithreswaram and Tripalazhikam Villages of the Kottarakara Taluk with Headquarters at Kottarakara.

STAFF

Designation.	No. of posts.
1. Excise Inspector	1
2. Preventive Officers	6
3. I Grade Excise Guards	7
4. II Grade Excise Guards	14

Chadayamangalam Range

Veliyam, Pooyapally, Ummannur, Velinallur, Elamad, Chadayamangalam, Ittiva, Kadakkal and Chithara Villages of Kottarakara Taluk with Headquarters at Chadayamangalam.

STAFF

Designation.	No. of posts.
1. Excise Inspector	1
2. Preventive Officers	5
3. I Grade Excise Guards	6
4. II Grade Excise Guards	12

Abkari Policy

The following Acts with connected rules are in force for the Abkari and Prohibition administration.

1. Travancore Abkari Act IV of 1073 as subsequently amended.
2. Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (M. & T. P.) Act of 1955 (Central Act).
3. Opium Act 1878 (Central Act).
4. Dangerous Drugs (D.D.) Act 1930 (Central Act).
5. Travancore-Cochin Prohibition Act XIII of 1950.

The Travancore Abkari Act is in force in Quilon, Karunagapally, Pathanamthitta and Kunnathur Ranges. The Opium Act, the Dangerous Drugs Act and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations Act are in force throughout the District. Prohibition is in force in Pathanapuram and Kottarakara Taluks.

By virtue of the powers conferred by the Abkari Act referred to above Government decides the Abkari Policy every year. Accordingly Government have sanctioned independent liquor shops as detailed below in Ranges where the said Act is in force.

Quilon Range.—35 Toddy shops and 17 Arrack shops and 1 Foreign Liquor Retail shop are functioning.

Karunagappally Range.—22 Toddy shops and 4 Arrack shops.

Kunnathur Range.—19 Toddy shops and 9 Arrack shops.

Pathanamthitta Range.—18 Toddy shops and 9 Arrack shops and 1 Foreign Liquor Retail shop.

The existing policy of Government is to put to auction the privilege of vend of liquors in the above shops for each financial year in public auctions and the highest bidder, if otherwise acceptable, is being given the right of vend of liquors on a contractual arrangement. Foreign Liquor Wholesale and Foreign Liquor Restaurant licenses are being issued on realisation of license fees prescribed as per rules framed under the above Act. The manufacture of Mass wine for sacremental purposes comes under the purview of this Act and license for its manufacture has been issued to the Bishop of Quilon in this Division. Mass Wine Licenses are issued free of license fee. The existing rates of fees for the various kinds of Foreign Liquor licenses are as follows.

		Rs.	
1.	Foreign Liquor Wholesale License	3,000	per annum.
2.	Foreign Liquor Restaurant	2,000	,,
3.	Foreign Liquor Club License	200	,,
4.	Medicated Wine License.	500	,,

The issue of Opium for personal consumption is governed by the Opium Act. Opium addicts are supplied with raw opium under the recommendation of the Medical Officers. Opium is being issued to Medical Practitioners, for the manufacture of medicines containing opium under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations Act. The manufacture, possession and sale of Dangerous Drugs are governed by the Dangerous Drugs Act. The manufacture, possession and sale of Spirituous Medicinal and Toilet Preparations are also governed by the M and T. P. Act.

The major sources of Excise income are rent of independent shops such as Toddy, Arrack and Foreign Liquor shops, Tax on trees licensed to be tapped, Duty and commission fee on Jaggery, and Arrack supplied to the shop keepers for sale in the shops,

Duty and Gallonage fee on Foreign Liquor, Fees for licenses issued under the various Acts and Duty on Rectified Spirit for the manufacture of Medicinal and Toilet Preparations.

Liquors

1. *Toddy.*—Toddy is drawn from coconut, Choondapana and Palmyra trees under the licenses issued for the purpose to tappers attached to the toddy shops for sale in the shops. According to the existing rules the quantity of toddy to be possessed by a person without valid documents is 2½ litres.

2. *Arrack.*—Arrack is distilled in distilleries by persons to whom the authority for the purpose is given by the Board of Revenue and supplied to the shop keepers for sale to public. The quantity to be possessed without valid document is 750 Millilitres.

4. *Indian made Foreign Liquors and Imported Foreign Liquors.*—Indian made Foreign Liquors are manufactured in recognised and licensed distilleries and the licensees obtain their requirements on the basis of permits granted. The quantity to be possessed without a license is 4½ litres.

5. *Opium and Ganja.*—Opium is being given to opium addicts for personal consumption, to medical Practitioners for the manufacture of medicines on payment of duty etc. Ganja is supplied only to Medical Practitioners for the preparation of medicines.

6. *Pharmaceuticals.*—Two Pharmaceuticals are now functioning in this Division. They are (1) National Pharmaceutical and Medical Service Ltd, Quilon, and (2) Enoch Pharma, Quilon. The licenses were issued under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations Act for the manufacture of Spirituous Medicinal and Toilet Preparations. Each Pharmacy is in charge of an Excise Inspector. Two Excise Guards are also posted for Guard duty in each of the Pharmacies. The cost of Establishment of the Excise staff is met by the concerned licensees.

7. *Distilleries and Laboratories.*—No Distillery or Laboratory is functioning in this Division.

Income

The excise revenue derived during each year from 1955-56 is furnished below.

Year	*Rs. nP.*
1955-56	11,79,351.20
1956-57	14,81,853.42
1957-58	15,61,333.60
1958-59	25,69,237.73
1959-60	25,04,051.57
1960-61	30,54,150.22

CENTRAL REVENUES

Income Tax

The Income Tax Circle, Quilon has two Income Tax Officers. Their jurisdictions are noted below.

Sl. No.	*Designation*	*Jurisdiction*
1	Income Tax Officer, Quilon Circle, Quilon	All persons (except those assigned to the Salary Circle, Trivandrum and to other Income Tax Officers u/s 5(7A) of the I. T. Act) within the limits of Quilon Municipal Town in Quilon Taluk.
2	Additional Income Tax Officer, Quilon Circle, Quilon	All persons (except those assigned to the Salary Circle, Trivandrum and to other I. T. Os u/s 5(7A) of the I. T. Act) within the Revenue Taluks of Quilon (except Quilon Town), Kottarakara, Pathanapuram Pathanamthitta and Kunnathur in Quilon District.

The Income Tax Officers administer the Income Tax Act as well as the other allied Acts, viz., Wealth-Tax, Expenditure-Tax and Gift-Tax. Their work is supervised by the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Ernakulam. Appeals against the orders passed by the Income Tax Officers at Quilon are heard by the Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Trivandrum.

The following table shows the number of assessees and the total amount of taxes collected during the financial year 1960-61.

Kind of Tax	*No. of Assessees*	*Amount* Rs.
Income Tax	1,391	1,00,67,000
Wealth Tax	46	70,000
Expenditure Tax	1	Nil.
Gift Tax	17	15,000

Central Excise

The Quilon District forms part of two Central Excise Circles with headquarters at Trivandrum and Alleppey respectively. The Quilon and Pathanamthitta Taluks and the villages of Ariankavu, Kulathupuzha and Edamon in Pathanapuram Taluk together with the Chirayinkil Taluk of Trivandrum District form part of the Trivandrum circle which is under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Central Excise, Trivandrum. The remaining portion of Quilon District comes under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Central Excise, Alleppey. The administration of central excise in the Quilon Taluk is under the immediate charge of a Deputy Superintendent stationed at Quilon while that of Pathanamthitta and the three

villages of Pathanapuram falls within the jurisdiction of Pathanamthitta M.O.R. under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent assisted by Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Besides there is a Preventive and Intelligence branch in charge of an Inspector with headquarters at Quilon and having jurisdiction over the two M.O.Rs. of Quilon and Pathanamthitta. The Central Excise Department deals with central taxes levied on tobacco, package and loose tea, coffee, vegetable, non-essential oils, China and Porcelain ware, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics, matches, patent medicines, wireless receiving sets etc. The total excise revenue and expenditure of this District for the five years preceding March 1960 are given below.

Year	*Revenue* Rs.	*Expenditure* Rs.
1955-56	19,33,462.00	74,000.00
1956-57	23,28,286.00	82,000.00
1957-58	24,12,980.00	99,000.00
1958-59	25,02,187.00	1,21,000.00
1959-60	30,69,195.00	1,24,000.00

APPENDIX—I

Sub-Registry Offices

	Name	*Location*	*Year or Date of Establishment*
1.	Adur	Adur	1867-68
2.	Chadayamangalam	Chadayamangalam	1907-08
3.	Chathannur	Chathannur	1892-93
4.	Chavara	Chavara	1902-03
5.	Enath	Enath	1-6-1962
6.	Eravipuram	Eravipuram (Palaithodu)	1916-17
7.	Ezhukone	Nedumpaikulam	1-6-1962
8.	Kadakkal	Kadakkal	1-6-1962
9.	Kannanallur	Kannanallur	1-6-1962
10.	Karunagapally (PRL)	Karunagapally	1867-68
11.	Karunagapally (ADDL.)	Kulasekharapuram	1942-43
12.	Konni	Konni	1942-43
13.	Kottarakara (PRL)	Kottarakara	1867-68
14.	Kottarakara (ADDL)	Kottarakara	1941-42
15.	Kundara	Kundara	1907-08
16.	Oachira	Oachira	1892-93
17.	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	1892-93
18.	Pathanapuram	Pathanapuram	1942-43
19.	Paravur	Paravur (Nedungolam)	1-6-1962
20.	Punalur	Punalur	1867-68
21.	Quilon	Quilon	1867-68
22.	Ranni	Ranni	1940-41
23.	Sasthamcottah	Sasthamcottah	1907-08
24.	Thevalakara	Thevalakara (Arunallur)	1-6-1962

CHAPTER XII

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

Incidence of Crimes in the District

Murder, dacoity, robbery, house breaking, ordinary theft, cattle theft and rioting constitute the most important crimes reported from the District. The figures relating to these crimes for the period 1950-60 can be had from the statement attached as Appendix I at the end of this Chapter. Though crimes like house breaking, ordinary theft and cattle theft registered an increase during the period commencing from 1957, there was a decrease in the incidence of such crimes in 1960. There was no organised violence in the District during the year. Nevertheless there were some difficulties arising from the strained relationship subsisting between the factory managements and labourers which caused political rivalries, strikes, picketings and lock-outs.

Prohibition is in force only in two Taluks of the District viz., Pathanapuram and Kottarakara. In 1958, 21 prohibition cases involving 32 persons were detected from various parts of the District. In 1959 the number of such cases charged increased to 56 while in 1960 it came down to 44. The incidence of cases of drunkenness also shows similar trends during the period 1958-60. Whereas 108 persons were arrested for drunkenness in 1958 the number increased to 150 in 1959 and it came down to 45 in 1960. All these persons arrested for drunkenness were men belonging to the rural areas of the District.

Cases under the Gambling Act and the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act and cases of drinking are also reported frequently. Table I shows the number of such cases reported during the years 1958-60:

TABLE I

Year	*Cases under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act*	*Cases of Drinking*	*Cases under Gambling Act*
1958	3	204	24
1959	24	210	55
1960	15	338	37

Cases of suicide are also reported frequently. Usually suicide is committed by hanging oneself or by drowning or by poisoning. Table II gives the number of cases of suicide reported during the years 1958-60:

TABLE II

		By drowning	*By poisoning*	*By hanging*	*Other causes*	*Total*
1958						
Males	Adults	15	2	64	10	91
	Children	..	..	1	..	1
Females	Adults	10	..	37	1	48
	Children	..	..	2	..	2
1959						
Males	Adults	13	20	71	2	106
	Children	..	..	..	..	..
Females	Adults	11	7	41	2	61
	Children	..	..	2	..	2
1960						
Males	Adults	19	8	67	..	94
	Children	3	..	..	..	3
Females	Adults	16	6	46	..	68
	Children	3	..	..	..	3

The following statement shows the value of property stolen and recovered during 1958-60:

Statement of property stolen and recovered

Year	*Property lost*	*Recovered*	*Percentage*
	Rs.	Rs.	
1958	74,350	41,199	56.7
1959	54,785	15,397	28.1
1960	90,023	43,653	48.5

Evolution of the Police Force

Prior to the beginning of the 18th century the maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of certain feudal chieftains called *'Pramanies'* or *'Madambis'* who used to enforce the law, dispense justice and collect the revenue. Under each *Pramani* there was a body of trained, paid and skilled men consisting of *Valia Sarvadhikaryakar*, *Sarvadhikaryakars*, *Karyakars*, *Parvathiakars* and peons. These men were given some military training in the *Kalaris* (Gymnasiums) along with some knowledge of *'Chattavariyolas'* which were the ordinances embodying the law and procedure prevailing in the land. However, this system of maintaining law and order

ceased to exist when the office of the Dewan—the head of the administrative system—was established. *Thanas*, having a close resemblance to the present day Police Stations, were created and these *Thanas* were to be manned by *Thana Naiks*, *Muthalpers* and *Thanadars*.

It was during the days of Dewan Ummini Thampi (1809-1811) that an organised police force of 200 men was raised in Travancore. Col. Munro, who succeeded Ummini Thampi as Dewan in 1811 introduced several reforms in this force by raising its strength from 200 to 500 men. Even then the police remained an indiciplined and untrained force, not properly supervised or remunerated. Due to these reasons the personnel and morale of the police force were unsatisfactory.

In 1831 for the first time in the history of Travancore a law regarding the police was passed. This was followed by the enactment of a second Police Regulation in 1847-48. In 1854-55 in the wake of the formation of the Revenue Divisions a reorganisation of the police administration was also effected. The Dewan Peishkar, the Officer-in-charge of the Revenue Division, was empowered to supervise and control the functions of the police. The Tahsildars were also empowered to control and supervise the police within their respective Taluks. Each Tahsildar had under him a chain of police officers such as *Kothuval, Aminadar, Vicharippu, Police Naik, Jamadar, Havildar, Duffadar, Naik, Muthalper* and Peons. In addition to these officers there were the "Extra Police Officers" who exercised jurisdiction over two or three Taluks and they were assisted by a staff of *Naiks, Muthalpers* and Peons. These Extra Police Officers were the crime police who were expected to go to the spot of grave crimes and conduct investigation.

In 1881 Dewan Ramiengar submitted a report to the Government recommending several changes in the organisation of the police and on the basis of this report a new Police Regulation was enacted. Accordingly the entire police force in Travancore was reorganised with one Superintendent, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 46 Inspectors, 172 Head Constables and 1,523 constables. Special qualifications were prescribed for the candidates who were recruited to the police. A police Training School was established with a view to training the new recruits. In order to meet emergencies a small Armed Reserve Force consisting of 147 men was also organised.

In 1919 the entire police in Travancore was brought under the control of a new Officer designated the Commissioner of Police. The District Superintendent of Police was made the head of the police at the divisional level and the Assistant Superintendents at the sub-divisional level. In 1938 the designation of the Commissioner of Police was changed to the Inspector-General of Police. In the same year the posts of a Deputy Inspector-General and an Assistant Inspector-General were newly created. Following this several important changes took place in the Travancore Police Force. The new reforms introduced include the formation of an Intelligence Bureau, the separation of the State General Reserve from the District Reserve Units, formation of the Vehicle Taxation Branch, setting up of the Wireless and Motor Transport Units, the formation of the Women Police Wing etc.

In 1949, as a result of the integration of Travancore and Cochin, the Police Forces in these two States were combined and placed under one Inspector-General of Police. In order to achieve uniformity in ranks, the Station House Officers in Travancore area were also designated as Sub-Inspectors. The Traffic and Taxation Branch and the Armed Reserve were separated and each unit was placed under a separate Superintendent of Police. The Palace Guards Unit was merged with the Police Department. It was also provided that all the superior cadres of the Police Force were to be held by the officers belonging to the Indian Police Service.

ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE FORCE

Local Police

The functions of the Local Police include the prevention and detection of crimes, maintenance of law and order, escorting and guarding prisoners, guarding treasuries etc. They have also to perform many other duties connected with the maintenance of law and order and service of summons, execution of warrants, guarding of public or private property of which they may be placed in charge, and the prosecution of criminals.

The Superintendent of Police, Quilon, is the head of the Department of Police at the district level. He is directly responsible to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, with headquarters at Trivandrum. In matters of administration he is assisted by a Personal Assistant in the

rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The entire Police District is divided into two sub-divisions, viz., Quilon and Adur and each sub-division is placed under the control of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The sub-divisions are again divided into Circles which in their turn are sub-divided into Police Stations. The Circles are under the control of Circle Inspectors and the Police Stations are manned by the Sub-Inspectors. Below the Police Stations there are Out-posts under Head Constables or Constables. There are altogether 4 Circles, 15 Police Stations and 25 Out-posts in the District and their names can be had from the list given as Appendix II at the end of this Chapter. The Local Police consists of 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 4 Circle Inspectors, 18 Sub-Inspectors, 8 Head Constables and 607 Constables. This includes a Traffic Control Unit consisting of one Traffic Sub Inspector, 5 Head Constables and 16 Police Constables.

The registration of cases is done at the Police Stations and investigation is usually conducted by the Sub-Inspectors or Head Constables. Cases of grave nature are often personally investigated by the Circle Inspectors or Sub-Divisional Officers. The record of investigation is promptly scrutinised by the superior officers and timely instructions are given to the subordinates.

For conducting prosecution in cases charged by the police there are 4 Assistant Public Prosecutors in the Quilon District and the District Superintendent of Police has control over them. In the Quilon Sessions Court, the District Government Pleader conducts the prosecutions.

Attached to the Office of the District Superintendent of Police there is a Special Branch Staff consisting of one Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 14 Head Constables and 1 Police Constable. A District Intelligence Bureau consisting of one Sub-Inspector and 3 Head Constables is also working in this District.

The District Armed Reserve in the Quilon District consists of one Reserve Inspector, 2 Reserve Sub-Inspectors, 14 Jamadars and 234 Police Constables including Naiks.

The table in page 532 gives briefly the particulars of the strength of the Police Force under the control of the District Superintendent of Police in September 1963.

Table showing the strength of the Police Force under the District Superintendent of Police, Quilon*. (September 1963)

	Deputy Supdt. of police	*Circle Inspector of police*	*Sub-Inspector of police*	*Head Constable/ Jamadar*	*Police Constables*
I. Local Police	2	4	..	..	..
a. Attached to Police Stations (Law & Order) & Supervisory officers	..	..	17	84	591
b. Traffic Control	..	..	1	5	16
II. District Intelligence Bureau	..	..	1	3	..
III. Special Branch	..	1	2	14	1
IV. Personal Assistant attached to office	1	..	..	..	..
V. District Armed Reserve	..	1	2	14	234
Total	3	6	23	120	842

* Total sanctioned strength of the Police in the District is as follows: Superintendent of Police-1, Dy. Superintendent of Police-3, Circle Inspectors-6 Sub-Inspectors-23, Head Constables/Jamadars-132, and Police Constables and corresponding rank-851.

Fire Service Unit

There is a section of the Fire Brigade Unit in this District with a sanctioned strength of 18 Firemen, 6 drivers, 1 driver-mechanic, 4 leading firemen, and one telephone operator under a Fire Sub-Officer. The Unit is under the control of the Divisional Fire Officer, Trivandrum, but the Superintendent of Police, Quilon, has disciplinary control over it. The Unit has two vehicles.

Railway Police

The prevention and detection of crimes in trains and along the Railway track and premises are the normal duties of the Railway Police. The Railway jurisdiction from Trivandrum to Shencottah and from Quilon to Ernakulam is under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent of Police, Railways, Trivandrum. The entire Railway Police Unit is under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, C.I.D. and Railways, Trivandrum. The expenditure on account of the Railway Police establishment is borne partly by the Railway Administration and partly by the State.

Home Guards

A Unit of the Home Guards was set up in this District in December 1960 under the provisions of the Kerala Home

Guards Act 1960. The sanctioned strength of the Unit at that time was 108 volunteers, but in the wake of the state of Emergency declared in 1962 the strength of the Home Guards was raised in all the Districts of the State. In September 1963 the Home Guards in Quilon district consisted of one Circle Inspector, 5 Sub-Inspectors, 6 Havildars and 468 Volunteers.

Police Housing Scheme

Quarters for Policemen and officers have been built in several centres of the District and in a few places they are being constructed. They are located at such centres as Adur, Karunagapally, Paravur, Kundara, Punalur, Kottarakara and Quilon West.

Police Club

There is a Police Club at Quilon set up in 1957. The Superintendent of Police is its Ex-officio President. Officers of and above the rank of Sub-Inspectors are members of this Club. Associate members are also enrolled from among the public at the discretion of the President of the club.

Popular Committee

For the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act an Advisory Committee has been formed. The administration of the Rescue Shelter at Polaithode, Quilon, is vested with this Committee.

JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

Historical background

It is seen from the *Administration Report of Travancore State* for 1862-63 that there was a principal jail at Quilon during the year. It was under the control of the Revenue Officer and the medical assistance to the inmates was given by Ayurvedic physicians. As there were no proper sanitary arrangements in the jail, the health of the inmates was far from satisfactory and there was considerable mortality. Later a medical subordinate was appointed for the jail and its medical charge was transferred to the Durbar Physician. In 1873 the jail was placed under the control of a Jailor who was responsible to the Superintendent of Police. The District Superintendent of Police used to inspect the jail periodically. In 1908 the jail was abolished.

There are at present three jails under the Prisons Department in the Quilon District. They are the A Class Sub-Jail,

Quilon, the Sub-Jail, Pathanamthitta and the A Class Sub-Jail, Kottarakara. Brief accounts of these institutions are given below.

A Class Sub-Jail, Quilon

The A Class Sub-Jail, Quilon is located at Thevally, near the Collectorate buildings. It was established on 10th June 1955. The jail is under the control of a Superintendent who is assisted in his official functions by one Head Warder and seven Warders. Women Warders are also recruited on a contingency basis when female prisoners are accommodated here. The sanctioned accommodation for the jail is 60 and only C Class convicted prisoners sentenced for a term not exceeding one month are kept here. The prisoners coming from within the jurisdiction of the Sessions Court, Quilon, other subordinate Courts at Quilon and the Additional First Class Magistrate Court of Karunagapally are kept in this jail. The Police Stations which come within the jurisdiction of this jail are those at Quilon East, Quilon West, Kundara, Paravur, Chavara and Karunagapally.

A Board of visitors has been constituted with the Inspector-General of Police, Director of Health Services, Sessions Judge, Senior Medical Officer, Probation Officer, local M.L.A. and local M.P. as members. Government may also nominate one doctor, one lawyer, one woman social worker and a respectable person of the locality as non-official members.

A Class Sub-Jail, Kottarakara

The A Class Sub Jail, Kottarakara is located at the Pulamon junction of the Kottarakara town. Formerly it was an ordinary Sub-Jail attached to the Police Station in the premises of the Kottarakara Taluk Office. But on the 6th February 1959 it was upgraded as an A Class Sub-Jail and was shifted to the present new building. The jail is under the control of a Superintendent and below him there is a staff consisting of one Head Warder and five Warders. Women Warders are also recruited on a temporary basis when the female prisoners are accommodated here. The sanctioned accommodation of the jail is 54. Only undertrials and convicts are kept in this jail. The Board of Visitors of this jail consists of the Inspector-General of Police, Director of Health Services, the Sessions Judge, Quilon, the Senior Medical Officer, Quilon, the Probation Officer, the local M.L.A., the local M.P., one doctor, one lawyer, and one woman social worker.

Sub-Jail, Pathanamthitta

The Pathanamthitta Sub-Jail is attached to the Police Station of the Pathanamthitta town. The sanctioned accommodation of the jail is six. It is under the control of a Superintendent. There are three visitors nominated by the Government and they visit the jail periodically.

Probation System

The Central Probation of Offenders Act was enforced throughout the State of Kerala on 15th July 1958. Till then the benefit of the probation system was limited to the former Malabar area as the Madras Probation of Offender's Act (1937), Madras Children Act (1920) and Madras Borstal Schools Act (1925) were in force in that part of the State and no such Acts were in force in the Travancore-Cochin area. In October 1960 the Probation System was extended and made to function in the whole State of Kerala with one District Probation Officer in each revenue District of the State. There is a District Probation Officer at Quilon. In addition an Honorary District Probation Officer has also been appointed and she is looking after the cases of women and children.

The Probation of Offender's Act provides for the release of offenders after due admonition or on guarantee of good conduct as an alternative to imprisonment or detention in an institution. The Magistrates refer the cases to the District Probation Officer after the guilt is established. The District Probation Officer by using every possible means gathers the information regarding the home surroundings, criminal record, social history, etc., of the offender and the circumstances under which the offence was committed and he sends a report to the Court stating his opinion whether the offender may be released on probation or be given institutional treatment. In cases where the court passes a probation order the District Probation Officer is charged with the duty of supervision of the probationers. During the period of probation the District Probation Officer has to visit the probationer periodically. He has also to help the offender to rehabilitate himself. If the probationer violates any of the conditions of probation his case will be reported back to the concerned Magistrate for taking further action such as sending him to jail or other institutions etc.

The procedure adopted in the case of juvenile and adolescent offenders is also the same as that mentioned above. The

District Probation Officer on receipt of order from the court makes enquiries regarding the whereabouts of the offenders and if the parents are found unfit to provide proper care, he would recommend the detention of the offender in a Borstal School or *Balamandir*. If his findings are to the contrary he may suggest to the Court to release the offender and hand him over to the parents under the supervision of the Probation Officer. The subsequent actions in such cases are on the same lines as those provided for adult offenders.

Cases under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act are also referred to the District Probation Officer. In addition to this he is also entrusted with the work of supervision of ex-pupils of Certified Schools and ex-inmates of Rescue Homes and Shelters and ex-prisoners released under the scheme of conditional and premature release.

Rescue Shelter, Quilon

The Rescue Shelter, Quilon started functioning on 1st November 1958 for providing facilities to the women and girls rescued from moral danger under the provisions of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act. The inmates are given facilities for vocational training in handicrafts such as mat weaving, coir making, needle work and embroidery. The management of the Shelter is vested in a Committee constituted by Government and consisting of both officials and non-officials. The staff consists of a Superintendent, a matron and a peon. In this institution there are facilities for 25 inmates.

There is no Aftercare Home functioning in this District. But there is an Abalamandir.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Historical Background

In olden days there was no regular judicial system in the erstwhile Travancore State. The judiciary was not a separate organ and the administration of justice was conducted by the *Naduvazhis* and *Desavazhis* in conformity with *maryada* or custom. The executive officers were also authorised to exercise judicial functions. The *Melvicharippukar* was the only divisional officer who exercised purely judicial functious.

During the time of Dewan Ummini Thampi a few courts known as the *Insuaff Cutcherries* were established for the dispensation of justice. However, Col. Munro who succeeded Ummini Thampi abolished these Courts and took the duty of the dispensation of justice in his own hands for some time. But as there were many difficulties in this system Col. Munro, in consultation with the pandits, drafted a set of rules called *"Chattavariyolas"* based on the *Dharma Sastras*, the regulations in vogue in the Company and, above all, on the established usages in the country. These were promulgated with the sanction of the then ruling Rani—Rani Gouri Lakshmi Bai—on 30th Chingam 987 K.E. (September 1811). Col. Munro made an attempt to abolish the system of trial by ordeal. But the Rani was strongly against the proposed measure and she prevailed upon him to retain it. It was therefore decided that trial by ordeal might be resorted to with the express sanction of the Dewan. The new scheme devised by Col. Munro and approved by the Rani marked a turning point in the history of judicial administration. It also placed the judiciary on a much higher pedestal.

In 1811 Zilla Courts were first established in Travancore and placed under the orders of the Dewan who was the head of all the departments of public service. These Courts were to enquire into all cases, civil, criminal or police, which were brought before them, and report to the Dewan, who passed orders on each case. In 1814 an Appellate Court, attached to the Dewan's Cutcherry, was formed in order to hear appeals on the decisions of the Zilla Courts. In 1817 Tahsildars were authorised to hear petty police cases. Munsiff's Courts were established in 1831 and they were invested with jurisdiction in petty police cases and in civil cases up to Rs. 100. A general scheme of judicial administration based on the system obtaining in the Madras Presidency was introduced by means of five Regulations in 1834. A code of Civil Procedure, based on the British Indian Act, was introduced in 1861. This was followed by the enactment of another Regulation in 1865 defining the status of *Vakils*, their discipline and their rights in relation to courts. Two Regulations were passed in the next year, the first empowering a single judge of the Zilla Court to try and determine civil and criminal cases, and the second raising the jurisdiction of the Munsiffs to hear and decide suits of the value not exceeding Rs. 200. Regulation I of 1871 made provision for the better conduct of work in the Sadr Court.

In 1881 the whole judicial system was reorganised. The number of Zilla Judges and Munsiffs was much reduced. The jurisdiction of Munsiffs was raised to Rs. 500 while they were invested with final small cause powers in personal suits up to the value of Rs. 20. In 1890 the small cause jurisdiction of the Munsiffs was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 and the final appellate jurisdiction of the Zilla Judges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. To prescribe the mode of valuing suits for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts and of assessing pleaders' fees for purpose of taxation of costs, a Regulation was passed in 1892. In 1901 the ordinary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 and steps taken to raise their small cause jurisdiction from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 in individual cases on the recommendation of the High Court. In 1917 a Village Panchayat Court was set up for the first time in Quilon. Several other reforms were introduced in the judicial system in succeeding years.

Organisation of Civil Courts

The District Judge, Quilon is the highest judicial authority in the District and he presides over the District Court. The District Court is the principal court of original civil jurisdiction in the District and it is also a court of appeal from all decrees and orders up to the value of Rs. 10,000 passed by the subordinate courts from which an appeal can be preferred. The District Judge exercises general control over all civil courts in the District and their establishments and inspects the proceedings of these courts.

The District Court, Quilon, has also attached to it an Additional District Judge. Subordinate to the District Court, Quilon, are 2 Sub-Courts, 8 Munsiff's Courts and a Village Panchayat Court. The Sub-Judge exercises both original and appellate jurisdiction. He tries original cases the value of which is unlimited and appeal cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Munsiff exercises only original civil jurisdiction. He tries original cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Village Panchayat Court constituted under the Travancore Village Panchayat Courts Act, I of 1090 K.E. (1914-15) is empowered to try petty civil suits the value of which does not exceed Rs. 100. Section 73 of the said Act permits of revision being preferred before the District Court in civil suits.

The Courts subordinate to the District Court, Quilon, as it stood on March 31, 1961 are as follows:

	Courts.	*Station.*
1.	Sub-Court (one bench)	Quilon
2.	Sub-Court (do.)	Kottarakara
3.	Munsiff's Court (two benches)	Quilon
4.	Munsiff's Court (one bench)	Paravur[1]
5.	Munsiff's Court ,,	Karunagapally
6.	Munsiff's Court ,,	Kottarakara
7.	Munsiff's Court ,,	Punalur
8.	Munsiff's Court ,,	Adur
9.	Munsiff's Court ,,	Pathanamthitta
10.	Village Panchayat Court	Quilon

The Munsiffs at Paravur and Punalur functioned as First Class Magistrates also. The Village Panchayat Court at Quilon functions also as Bench Magistrate's Court.

Statistics of Civil Courts

In the various courts including the Village Panchayat Court in the Quilon District at the beginning of the financial year 1960-61, there were 4,578 suits pending. During the same year 5,143 suits were instituted and 1,068 were received otherwise. Of these 6,397 suits were disposed of and the number of suits pending at the end of the year was 4,392.

Of the 5,143 suits instituted, 3,562 were for money or movable property; 679 were for immovable property; 488 related to mortgages, and 414 were for specific reliefs and other rights.

Of the suits instituted, 1,612 were of value not exceeding Rs. 100, 2834 were of value above Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000, 564 were of value above Rs. 1,000 but not exceeding Rs. 5,000, 75 were of value above Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000, and 58 were of value above Rs. 10,000. The total value of the suits instituted was Rs. 78,05,613.

Of 6,397 suits disposed of, 342 were disposed of without trial, 2,381 exparte, 7 on admission of claims, 1,490 by compromise, 2,167 after full trial, and 10 were transferred.

There were 370 appeals (including miscellaneous appeals) pending at the beginning of the financial year 1960-61. During the same year 1,044 appeals were instituted and 967 disposed of, and the balance pending at the end of the year was 447.

1 Established originally as an experimental court, this has since been abolished.

Of the 967 appeals disposed of, 202 were dismissed or not prosecuted, 373 confirmed, 119 modified, 132 reversed, 144 remanded for re-trial and 27 were transferred.

Organisation of Criminal Courts.

The Civil District and the Sessions Division being co-terminous with the corresponding Revenue District, the District Judge, Quilon, is also the Sessions Judge of the Division. The Sessions Court is the principal court of original criminal jurisdiction in the Sessions Division. It is presided over by the Sessions Judge. The Additional District Judge and the Sub-Judges function as Additional Sessions Judge and Assistant Sessions Judges respectively. The Courts subordinate to the Sessions Court, Quilon, as it stood on March 31, 1961 are as follows.

	Courts	*Station*
1.	The Assistant Sessions Court (one bench)	Quilon
2.	The Assistant Sessions Court (one bench)	Kottarakara
3.	The District Magistrate's Court (Judicial)	Quilon
4.	The Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court	Quilon
5.	The Sub-Magistrate's Court, First Class	Kottarakara
6.	do.	Pathanamthitta
7.	do.	Adur
8.	do.	Karunagapally
9.	The Munsiff-Magistrate's Court, (First Class)	Punalur
10.	do.	Paravur[1]
11.	The Sub Magistrate's Court, Second Class	Quilon
12.	do.	Kottarakara
13.	do.	Punalur
14.	do.	Pathanamthitta
15.	do. (Addl.)	Pathanamthitta
16.	do.	Adur
17.	The Bench Magistrate's Court[2]	Quilon
18.	Hon. Railway First Class Magistrate's Court	Quilon

The Sessions Judge tries criminal cases which are committed to his court by Judicial Magistrates after preliminary enquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of Judicial Magistrates. The Sessions Judge and Additional Sessions Judge can pass any sentence authorised by law, but any sentence of death passed by them is subject to confirmation by the High Court. The Assistant Sessions Judge can pass any sentence authorised by law except a sentence of death or of imprisonment for life or of imprisonment for a term exceeding ten years.

1. Established originally as an experimental court, this has since been abolished.
2. The Bench Magistrate's Court is also Village Panchayat Court on the civil side.

The separation of the judiciary from the executive is complete in this State so that, like every other District, Quilon has also two categories of Magistrates—Executive and Judicial. The Executive Magistrates are the executive officers of the Revenue Department in whom is vested the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. The District Collector, by virtue of the office he holds, retains some of the powers of a District Magistrate. He is an Additional District Magistrate. Similarly the Revenue Divisional Officers are ex-officio First Class Magistrates and they exercise magisterial powers and functions within their revenue jurisdictions. The category of Judicial Magistrates consists of (1) the District Magistrate, (2) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, (3) First-Class Magistrates, (4) Sub-Magistrates and (5) Bench Magistrates.

Under the Criminal Procedure Code and various other statutes the functions of a Magistrate fall within three broad categories, viz., (1) functions which are 'Police' in their nature, as for instance, the handling of unlawful assemblies, (2) functions of an administrative character, as for instance, the issue of licenses for fire arms etc., and (3) functions which are essentially judicial, as for instance, the trial of criminal cases. The allocation of powers between the two categories of Magistrates proceeds upon the principle that matters which are purely police or administrative in their nature should be dealt with by the Executive Magistrates while those which are judicial in nature are strictly within the purview of the Judicial Magistrates. As officers of the Revenue Department the Executive Magistrates are under the control of the Government through the Board of Revenue while the Judicial Magistrates are under the control of the High Court.

The District Magistrate is the principal magisterial officer of the District and as such he has general administrative superintendence and control over all Judicial Magistrates. He inspects once in every year all the Courts of the Sub-Divisional and First-Class Magistrates in the District and such of the Courts of Sub-Magistrates as he considers necessary. His primary responsibility is to see that there is no congestion of work in any Court and that the Magistrates dispose of the work in their Courts properly and promptly. In addition to general supervisory functions the District Magistrate has also a specified area assigned to him, the cases arising from which he normally disposes of himself. He hears appeals from second class cases arising within that area or within any other area not assigned to any other First-Class Magistrate. It is open

to him to transfer to or from his file, particular cases, or class of cases, and appeals, but he is expected to dispose of cases of special difficulty and importance himself. The District and Sessions Judge inspects the Court of the District Magistrate annually as the nominee of the High Court. He may, if he thinks fit, also inspect the court of any other Judicial Magistrate in the District as such nominee, but he does not have general powers of superintendence over Magistrates in his own right.

The ordinary powers of the Magistrates of the several classes are detailed in Schedule III of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act V of 1898). They may be invested with such additional powers by the State Government as are detailed in Schedule IV of the Code. They are competent to pass the following sentences.

(a) Sub Divisional and First Class Magistrates.

1. Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years including such solitary confinement as is authorised by law.
2. Fine not exceeding Rs. 2,000.

(b) Magistrates of the Second Class.

1. Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months including such solitary confinement as is authorised by law.
2. Fine not exceeding Rs. 500.

Statistics of Criminal Courts

There were 73 offences reported to the Sessions Court, Quilon during the year 1960-61. The number of persons under trial was 177. The cases of 158 persons were disposed of during the year. Of these 111 were acquitted or discharged and 47 were convicted.

The cases of 3 persons were referred to the High Court for confirmation of sentences passed on them. The sentences passed by the Courts of Sessions were as follows:

Number of persons who were sentenced to death	3
Number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment	43
Number of persons fined only.	1

The total number of offences reported during the year 1960-61 in the various Magistrate's Courts in the Quilon District was 17,017. The number of persons under trial was 33,717. The cases of 26,816 persons were disposed of during the year and 6,901 persons were awaiting trial at the end of the year. In the cases thus disposed of, 8,687 persons were

discharged or acquitted, 13,090 were convicted and 144 were committed to the Sessions and the remaining were otherwise disposed of. The sentences passed by the Magistrates' Courts were as follows.

Number of persons sentenced to simple imprisonment only.	206
Number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment only.	375
Number of persons imprisoned and fined	47
Number of persons fined only	12,459
Number of persons sent to registered school.	3

Law officers in the District

The following are the Law Officers of Government functioning in the Quilon District.

Designation.	*Number.*
1. Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.	3
2. Assistant Public Prosecutors.	4
3. Assistant Government Pleaders.	Nil

Number of legal practitioners

There were 285 legal practitioners in the Quilon District in 1960-61, of whom 224 were advocates of the Kerala High Court.

Revenue and Expenditure

The following are the figures for revenue and expenditure pertaining to the Courts of Law in the Quilon District for the year 1960-61.

Civil Courts

Revenue	*Rs.*
Receipt from Court fee stamps	3,90,695
Receipt in cash	5,324
Total	3,96,019
Expenditure	
Pay of Officers	80,562
Pay of establishments	2,57,794
Allowances	2,21,110
Contingencies	27,479
Total	5,86,945

Criminal Courts

Revenue	*Rs.*
Receipt from court fee stamps	24,662
Receipt in cash	1,37,313
Total	1,61,975

Expenditure	*Rs.*
Pay of officers	51,962
Pay of establishment	1,02,747
Allowances	86,209
Contingencies	15,818
Total	2,56,725

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Bar Associations have been established in important centres of the District where Law Courts are located. There are altogether six of them, viz., Quilon, Adur, Karunagapally, Punalur, Kottarakara and Pathanamthitta. The oldest among these Bar Associations is the one at Quilon the details of which are given below.

The Quilon Bar Association

The Quilon Bar Association was established in August 1908. Dr. K. Krishnan Pandalai, Changanacherry K. Parameswaran Pillai and C. Raman Thampi, who later became Judges of the Travancore High Court were among its earliest members. At the time of its inception there were only 15 members in the Association. It was in the nature of a mutual benefit society whose chief object was to render to its members mutual professional assistance, and to this end to form and maintain a good law library of text books, reports, journals and the like. The requisite accommodation for the Association and its library was provided by the then District Judge, N. Anantha Rao, in a room in the court building.

In 1933 at the time of its Silver Jubilee Celebrations the Association had a membership of 86 lawyers and 1,132 volumes in its library. In 1958 it celebrated its Golden Jubilee. During the last 54 years the Association has built up a tradition of its own. Its members have played a very prominent part in the politics of the State. Special mention may be made in this connection of T. M. Varghese and C. Kesavan who were the members of the first three-man popular Ministry which assumed office in Travancore in 1948.

In the beginning of 1962 there were 137 members in the Quilon Bar Association. It is located in a separate hall in the Quilon Civil Lines Buildings. The assets of the Association are worth about Rs. 25,765. In the year 1961 its total income was Rs. 3,190 and expenditure Rs. 2,646.

The details regarding the other Bar Associations in Quilon District are given below:

Name of the Association	*Location*	*Date of Establishment*	*No. of members in 1961*	*Income in 1961*	*Expenditure in 1961*
				Rs.	Rs.
1. Bar Association, Karunagapally	Karunagapally Town	1915	24	300	300
2. Bar Association, Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta Town	1935	28	600	600
3. Bar Association, Kottarakara	Kottarakara Town	1940	44	500	500
4. Bar Association, Adur	Adur Town	1950	24	1,116	889
5. Bar Association, Punalur	Punalur Town	1956	18	1,250	1,080

APPENDIX I

Important crimes reported (1950-1960)

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Murder	32	21	34	24	30	29	23	26	43	41	32
Dacoity	4	5	8	4	..	4	1	4	8	5	1
Robbery	27	17	10	22	18	15	13	32	20	10	7
House breaking	139	124	126	174	141	98	196	271	266	317	209
Theft ordinary	119	125	120	169	159	119	190	196	229	248	227
Cattle theft	17	19	14	19	18	12	4	16	23	9	12
Rioting	84	71	69	65	99	103	88	129	249	262	151

APPENDIX II

List of Sub-Divisions, Circles, Police Sations and Out-posts of Quilon District

I. Quilon Sub-division

	Police Station	Out-post
1. Quilon Circle	Quilon East	1. Market 2. Boat Jetty
	Paravur	1. Paripally 2. Chathannur
	Quilon West	1. Kavanad
	Kundara	1. Kallada 2. Anchalummud 3. Kilikollur
2. Karunagapally Circle	Chavara	Nil.
	Karunagapally	1. Oachira
	Sooranad	1. Sasthamcottah
	Pathanamthitta	1. Konni 2. Kaippattur

II. Adur Sub-division

	Police Station	Out-post
1. Pathanamthitta Circle	Ranni	1. Vadasserikara 2. Mukkuttuthara
	Aranmula	1. Kozhencherry
	Adur	1. Koodal 2. Enathu
2. Punalur Circle	Kottarakara	1. Oyyoor
	Kadakkal	1. Chadayamangalam
	Kulathupuzha	1. Achenkovil 2. Aryankavu 3. Thenmala
	Punalur	1. Anchal 2. Pathanapuram 3. Kunnicode

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The organisational set-up of some of the important Departments of the State functioning at the district level may be considered in this Chapter.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department in the Quilon District functions in two branches, viz., Buildings and Roads and Irrigation and General. The Buildings and Roads branch has a separate Division the jurisdiction of which extends to the whole of the Revenue District. The Irrigation branch has got only two Sub-Divisions with headquarters at Quilon and Adur. In addition there are three Special Divisions, viz., the Marine Division with headquarters at Quilon, the Kallada Project Division with headquarters at Kottarakara and the Pamba Project Division with headquarters at Pathanamthitta. The organisation and functions of each of these divisions or sub-divisions are given below.

Buildings and Roads Division

The Executive Engineer who is immediately under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, is primarily responsible for the execution of works under this Division. To assist the Executive Engineer in his functions there are 8 Assistant Engineers and 24 Junior Engineers. The whole Division has been divided into 7 sub-divisions which are again sub-divided into 23 sections. The names of the Sub-divisions and Sections are given below:

Sub-division	*Section*
1. Quilon	1. Quilon Town
	2. Mukathala
	3. Chattannur
	4. Chittumala
	5. Anchalummud
2. Karunagapally	1. Chavara
	2. Karunagapally
	3. Oachira

Sub-division	Section
3. Kottarakara	1. Kottarakara 2. Veliyam 3. Chadayamangalam
4. Punalur	1. Punalur 2. Pathanapuram 3. Anchal
5. Adur	1. Adur 2. Sasthamcottah
6. Pathanamthitta	1. Pathanamthitta 2. Konni 3. Ranni 4. Kozhencherry
7. Special Education Sub-division	1. Quilon- (Working in Drawing branch) 2. Quilon 3. Pathanamthitta

Each Sub-division is having jurisdiction over one Revenue Taluk. But the Special Education Sub-division has jurisdiction over the whole district as far as the educational construction works are concerned.

The Irrigation Sub-division, Quilon

The Irrigation Sub-division, Quilon, forms part of the Irrigation Division with headquarters at Alleppey and its jurisdiction extends to a part of the Quilon Revenue District. The Assistant Engineer who is the head of this Sub-division is in charge of the irrigation works of all categories in the District. In order to assist the Assistant Engineer there are seven Junior Engineers. The entire Sub-division has been divided into seven sections, viz., (1) Paravur Section, (2) Quilon North Section, (3) Quilon South Section, (4) Kayamkulam Section, (5) Canal Section, Quilon, (6) Investigation Section, Quilon and (7) Minor Irrigation Section, Quilon.

Irrigation Sub-division, Adur

The Irrigation Sub-division, Adur, forms part of the Irrigation Division with headquarters at Chengannur. The Assistant Engineer, who is in charge of this Sub-division, attends to all the irrigation works within his jurisdiction with the help of four Junior Engineers. The sections coming under this Sub-division are those at Adur, Kottarakara, Punalur and Pathanamthitta.

Marine Division, Quilon

The jurisdiction of the Marine Division extends to the whole of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin area. The main functions of this Division are those relating to the Port works and the

Fisheries Harbour Projects. The Executive Engineer, who is the head of this Division attends to all the work coming within its jurisdiction. Under this Divison there are only two Sub-divisions viz., Quilon and Alleppey. The jurisdiction of the Quilon Sub-division extends to the whole of the Trivandrum and Quilon Revenue Districts. There is also a section office at Quilon under the Quilon Sub-division.

The main work which is being attended to by this Division in Quilon District is the construction of a lighterage port at Neendakara at an estimated cost of Rs. 111.65 lakhs.

Kallada Project Division, Kottarakara

The Executive Engineer is the head of this Division. In order to assist him there are three Assistant Engineers and nine Junior Engineers. The entire Division consists of three Sub-divisions viz., Kottarakara, Adur and Thenmala. The sections coming under this Division are Kottarakara, Punalur I, Punalur II, Adur, Ottakal, Pathanapuram, Thenmala I, Thenmala II and Thenmala III.

Pamba Project Division, Pathanamthitta

The Pamba Project Division has been divided into two Sub-divisions and six Sections. The Sub-divisions are those of Pathanamthitta and Ranni. The Sections are at Pathanamthitta, Vadasserikara, Perinad, Ranni, Ayur and Eraviperur.

The Division is manned by an Executive Engineer whose office is located at Pathanamthitta. In his official functions he is assisted by two Assistant Engineers and six Junior Engineers.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Quilon District forms part of the Quilon Division of the Public Health Engineering Department which includes the Alleppey District also. The main functions of this Division include the execution of the Quilon Water Supply Scheme and Rural Water Supply Schemes, construction of medical buildings costing up to Rs. 25,000, maintenance works, and water supply and sanitary installation in all medical buildings.

The Executive Engineer is the head of this Division and he is assisted by three Assistant Engineers. The entire Division has been divided into three Sub-divisions—the Distribution Sub-division at Quilon, Head Works Sub-division at Sasthamcotta attending to the Quilon Water Supply Scheme and the Public

Health Sub-division at Kottarakara attending to rural water supply schemes and works connected with medical buildings in Quilon District.

The Quilon Water Supply Scheme is the major project under execution in this Division. By February 1963 this 139 lakh scheme had been completed and formally inaugurated. Apart from this some Rural Water Supply Schemes have also been completed since 1960. Many Tube Wells have been sunk. The construction and maintenance works under the Health Services Department have also been carried out on a large scale.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The District Agricultural Officer, Quilon, is the head of the Department of Agriculture at the district level. All the agricultural activities in the District are guided and supervised by him. Besides the District Agricultural Officer there is an Additional District Agricultural Officer at Quilon to handle the development activities with regard to Coconut, Arecanut, Cashewnut, Sugarcane and such other crops.

The District Agricultural Officer has under him a Technical Assistant and a number of Agricultural Assistants and Agricultural Extension Officers. The Technical Assistant helps him in his office work as well as in the discharge of his technical duties. The agricultural extension activities are undertaken at the Block level by the Agricultural Assistants. Their duties include drawing up of agricultural production programmes for their jurisdiction, carrying out schemes and programmes of the department, conducting and supervising demonstrations, campaigns and camps, organising the farmers' organisations, making arrangements for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds etc. Special campaigns such as Compost Fortnight, Glyricidia campaign, *Vanamahotsava* etc., are conducted annually in all Block and non-block areas. Due to the increase in the number of schemes to be implemented during the third Five Year Plan, Additional Agricultural Extension Officers have been appointed in some Blocks. The Offices of the Agricultural Extension Officers are located at Konni, Kottarakara, Sasthamcottah, Pathanapuram, Karunagapally, Elanthur, Chavara, Anchalummud, Oachira, Chittumala, Ranni, Ithikara, Vettikavala and Parakode. There are Additional Agricultural Extension Officers at Konni, Kottarakara, Sasthamcottah, Pathanapuram, Karunagapally, Elanthur and Chavara. The Offices of the Agricultural Assistants are located at Quilon, Punalur and

Chadayamangalam. The Agricultural Assistants are assisted by Fieldmen for regular extension work and by Maistries for specialised items of work such as plant protection and coconut demonstrations. Spraying Supervisors are also posted in each Block and non-Block area for conducting spraying work in regard to the control of coconut diseases under the supervision of the Agricultural Assistants and Agricultural Extension Officers. Further four Supervisors are posted at Ithikara, Chadayamangalam, Adur and Punalur under the scheme "Simple Fertiliser Trial", and they are also under the supervision of Agricultural Assistants and Agricultural Extension Officers.

For the production of foundation seeds of paddy three State Seed Farms are functioning at Kadakkal, Adur and Karunagapally, each Seed Farm being managed by an Agricultural Assistant and one Fieldman.

Quality coconut seedlings are supplied from two Nurseries located at Ramankulangara and Nellimugal. An arecanut nursery which supplies quality arecanut seedlings is also located at Kureepuzha, Quilon.

In addition to the institutions mentioned above there is a Rice Research Station at Kottarakara. At Konni there is a Soil Conservation Research Station. There is a Soil Conservation Unit also at Kottarakara. A station for the rearing and release of parasites for controlling coconut caterpillar pest is functioning at Kureepuzha, Quilon.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

The District Veterinary Officer, Quilon is the head of the Animal Husbandry Department in the District. Below the District Veterinary Officer there are Veterinary Surgeons who are in charge of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries. They have also to supervise and direct the work in the Stockmen Stations and Poultry Extension Centres within their jurisdiction. The Extension Officers for Animal Husbandry in the N.E.S. Blocks are under the technical control of the District Veterinary Officer.

There are 8 Veterinary Hospitals and 18 Veterinary Dispensaries in the District. The Veterinary Hospitals are located at Quilon, Chavara, Punalur, Karunagapally, Pathanamthitta, Kottarakara, Adur and Kozhencherry. The Veterinary Dispensaries are those at Channapettah, Kottiyam, Kadakkal, Kulathupuzha, Ranni, Paravur, Sasthamcottah, Vechuchira, Ayur,

Kuthikode, Mynagapally, Manapally, Maruthumonpally, Kuzhimathicaud, Chethomkara, Ranni-Perinad, Ranni-Angadi and Vadasserikara. The main functions of these institutions are the treatment of animals, prevention of contagious diseases of livestock and carrying on propaganda regarding scientific management of livestock.

Besides the Veterinary Surgeons there are three Key Village Officers who are in charge of the Key Village Centres. Their functions are to conduct artificial insemination, castration of stud bulls, prevention and control of contagious diseases among animals, development of fodder grass etc. There are three Key Village Centres and 18 Key Village Sub-centres. The Key Village Centres are at Quilon, Sasthamcottah and Kottarakara. The Sub-centres are located at Paravur, Anchalummud, Mayyanad, Sakthikulangara, Chattannur, Kottankara, Patharam, West Kallada, Parakkadavu, Nediyavila, Thuvayur, Pallickal, Sadanandapuram, Veliyam, Chengamanad, Kulakkad, Ezhukone and Puthur.

In addition to these institutions there is a District Poultry Farm at Quilon. There is one Poultry Development Centre at Kottarakara. The function of these institutions is to maintain and supply improved varieties of poultry and hatching eggs and they are under the charge of the Poultry Officer, Quilon.

There is also a Clinical Laboratory at Quilon under the immediate control of the Veterinary Surgeon, Quilon.

THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

The Quilon District falls under the jurisdiction of four Forest Divisions—Thenmala, Punalur, Ranni and Konni. Each Division is under a Divisional Forest Officer who is responsible to the Conservator of Forests, Quilon. For the convenience of administration each Division is divided into Ranges which are under the control of Rangers. The Ranges are again divided into Sections and Beats. The Sections are under the control of the Foresters while the Beats are manned by Forest Guards.

The Thenmala Forest Division has been divided into 3 Ranges, 4 Sections and 7 Beats. The Ranges are Thenmala, Ariankavu and Achencoil, the Sections Edamon, Eattapadappu, Ariankavu and Achencoil and the Beats Edamon, Ottakal, Kalamkunnu, Eattapadappu, Kalluvarampu, Ariankavu and Achencoil.

The Punalur Forest Division is divided into 2 Ranges, 11 Sections and 20 Beats as given below:

I. PATHANAPURAM RANGE

	Sections	*Beats*
1.	*Mukkadavu*	1. Mukkadavu 2. Velakkuvattom 3. Karippanthodu
2.	*Piravanthur*	1. Piravanthur 2. Kadassery
3.	*Kadakkamon*	1. Kadakkamon
4.	*Pathanapuram*	1. Punnala 2. Chithelvetty

II. ANCHAL RANGE

1.	*Kulathupuzha*	1. Kulathupuzha
2.	*Kalamkunnu*	1. Kalamkunnu
3.	*Karavalur*	1. Karavalur 2. Ayiranallur
4.	*Yerur*	1. Yerur 2. Meenkulam
5.	*Chithara*	1. Chithara 2. Madathara
6.	*Ayur*	1. Theruvambhagom 2. Vengur
7.	*Nilamel*	1. Malaperur 2. Alatharamala 3. Iruttur

Besides the two Rangers in charge of the Ranges there is one special Ranger in this Division for conducting the prosecution of Forest cases in the Court. There are 13 Foresters and 55 Guards for the protection of Sections and Beats. Further there are two Foresters, one Guard and one Watcher in order to supervise the works under the Five Year Plan. In this Division there are five Watch Stations each of which is placed under a Guard and a Watcher. There are also three Depots two of which are under the control of a Forester and the third under a Deputy Ranger.

The Ranni Forest Division is comprised of two Ranges—Ranni and Vadasserikara. The Ranni Range has been divided into five Sections—Valiakavu, Karikulam, Shethakal, Nilakkal South and Nilakkal North. Seven Beats come under this Range. They are Valiakavu, Karikulam, Shethakal South, Shethakal North, Nilakkal North, Perinad and Rajampara. The Vadasserikara Range is divided into four Sections—Chittar, Vadakkumalai, Thekkumalai and Mundomuzhi. The Beats under this Range are those at Chittar, Kakkai, Vadasserikara, Koothattukulam, Kadavapuzha, Thekkumalai and Mundomuzhi.

Besides these there are three Watch Stations in this Division. A Timber Depot is functioning at Viapuram in the Karthikapally Taluk under a Ranger. A prosecuting Ranger conducts the forest cases. For the Divisions of Ranni and Konni there is a Flying Squad.

The Konni Division is divided into three Ranges, viz., Konni, Naduvathumuzhi and Mannarappara. Below these three Ranges there are seven Sections viz., Kumaramperur, Kodumon, Ockathodu, Anakkulam, Karappanthodu, Chempala and Mannarappara. There are ten Beats in this Division and they are Kumarapuram South, Kumarapuram North, Kodumon, Aruvapalam, Kopram, Anakkulam, Prakkulam, Karappanthodu, Chempala and Mannarappara.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

The Industries Department in Quilon District falls within the jurisdiction of the Southern Region with headquarters at Trivandrum. The District Industries Officer is the head of the Department at the district level and is in charge of all industrial programmes in the District. Further he is also vested with powers of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in respect of the Industrial Co-operative Societies in the District.

The District Industries Officer is assisted in his official functions by one Technical Supervisor, one Inspector of Cottage Industries, one Organiser for Small Scale Industries, one Senior Co-operative Inspector and one Junior Co-operative Inspector.

The Technical Supervisor assists the District Industries Officer in the work of assessing the capacity of Industrial units and in the valuation of buildings and he is responsible for enquiry on the applications for the acquisition of controlled commodities like iron and steel, Essentiality Certificates, purchase of machines under Hire Purchase Scheme etc. The Inspector of Cottage Industries inspects the Handicraft and Cottage Industries Units—both departmental and private—in order to verify whether the loans granted by the Government are utilised properly. The Organiser of Small Scale Industries assists the District Industries Officer in matters relating to the enquiry on the applications for registration of Small Scale Industries Units, loans under Small Scale Industries Aid Scheme, applications for the allotment of softwood from the forests etc. The two Co-operative Inspectors assist the District Industries

Officer in the administration of Industrial Co-operative Societies. Moreover the Handloom Development Officer, the Handloom Inspectors, Supervisors, Technical Assistant, Designer and the Coir Inspectors in the District are also under the control of the District Industries Officer.

At the Block level, the Block Level Extension Officers for Industries are in charge of the entire industrial programmes in each Block under the direction of the District Industries Officer and they are given the assistance of the Co-operative Inspectors.

According to the present set-up all the industrial institutions are under the District Industries Officer. They include the Handicraft Emporium, Quilon, and the Production-cum-Training Centres for screwpine at Chittumala, Thazhava and Karunagapally.

The following are the major Industrial Units (State owned and State sponsored) in the District.

State owned

1. Travancore Plywood Industries, Punalur.
2. Travancore Minerals (Government of India) Chavara.
3. F. X. Periera Minerals, Chavara.
4. Government Ceramic Concerns, Kundara.
5. Kerala Government Ceramics, Kundara.
6. The Electrical and Allied Industries (Tr.) Limited., Kundara.
7. Premo Pipe Factory, Chavara.
8. The T. C. Chemicals Limited, Kundara.

State sponsored

1. Aluminium Industries Limited, Kundara.
2. United Electrical Industries Limited, Quilon.
3. Punalur Paper Mills Limited, Punalur.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies is the head of the Co-operative Department in the District. He is responsible for the effective and proper working of all types of societies

other than Industrial, Handloom, Cottage Industries and Coir. Besides exercising all the statutory functions like registration of new societies and making amendments to the bye-laws of the existing societies, conducting enquiries and inspections etc., he controls and regulates the work of all the executive staff under him.

The Deputy Registrar, in his official functions, is assisted by two Assistant Registrars—one for Administration and the other for Planning. The Assistant Registrar (Administration) is the Chief Ministerial Officer to assist the Deputy Registrar in all his functions except planning. The Assistant Registrar (Planning) is in charge of the entire Plan schemes in the District and he is assisted by a Senior Inspector (Planning).

Below the Assistant Registrar there are the Inspectors-cum-Extension Officers for Co-operation who are the Executive Officers working in the field. They conduct statutory enquiries and inspection of societies, hear arbitration suits in the capacity of arbitrators, execute the awards and exercise the powers of a Tahsildar under the Revenue Recovery Act. They also attend to works relating to the Co-operative Department in the N.E.S. Blocks in their capacity as Extension Officers for Co-operation. There are altogether 25 Inspectors in this Co-operative District. Of these four attend to the liquidation work and one to the work relating to Farming Societies. In addition there are Auditors engaged in the audit of all the societies working in this District. They are directly under the control of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Audit), Trivandrum. The Inspectors and Auditors have been divided into two categories, i.e., first grade and second grade.

LOCAL FUND AUDIT DEPARTMENT

The primary function of the Local Fund Audit Department is to conduct statutory audit of accounts of local bodies, and the non statutory audit of grant-in-aid institutions entrusted under the special orders of Government. In addition, the audit of acounts of Devaswoms under the administrative control of the Devaswom Board and those of the subordinate Courts is entrusted to this Department. Besides regular audit, the Department offers remarks through the controlling authority on references from Government and the Departments of Panchayats and Municipalities relating to the finances of local bodies.

The Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Quilon, is the head of the District Office and he is immediately responsible to the Assistant Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, South Zone with headquarters at Trivandrum. To assist the Inspector in his functions there are six Auditors. The institutions the accounts of which are audited by the Quilon District Office include 1 Municipal Council, 98 Panchayats and certain Grant-in-aid institutions. For the audit of subordinate Courts and Devaswoms there are separate wings in the Department with head office at Trivandrum.

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

The District Statistical Officer is the head of the Statistics Department at the district level. He is assisted in the field by Statistical Inspectors each of whom is in charge of a subordinate office. The subordinate offices are (1) Statistical Office (Regular), Quilon, (2) Statistical Office, (National Sample Survey), Quilon, (3) Statistical Office (Industries and Plantations), Quilon, (4) Statistical Office (Regular), Kottarakara and (5) Statistical Office (Regular), Pathanamthitta. Thus under the Quilon District Statistical Officer there are altogether five Statistical Inspectors. Below the Statistical Inspectors come the Statistical Investigators, of whom there are altogether 39 in the District. In his office the District Statistical Officer is assisted by an Analyst, an Accountant-cum-Clerk, a Typist and a Peon.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The District Information Officer, Quilon, is the head of the Department of Public Relations at the district level. He issues press releases on Governmental activities in the District and acts as the press Liaison Officer of the Government. He gathers information on developmental activities in the Blocks and other Departments and focuses public attention on these activities by issuing feature articles to the press as well as to the Departmental journal viz., the *Kerala Sandesh*. He occasionally visits information centres in the N.E.S. Blocks and guides in the proper functioning of these centres. Attached to the District Information Office there is a District Information Centre which gives useful information to those who seek it. Tourists coming from abroad will find it useful to visit the District Information Office and get guidance from the District Information Officer as to the places of interest worth visiting in

the District. Information regarding local reactions to the policies and activities of the Government is also transmitted from the District Information Office to the head office. The other functions of the District Information Officer include the effective distribution of the publicity materials relating to Five Year Plans, making arrangements for press conferences or interviews to the journalists and state guests, etc.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Early History

Local institutions of a self-governing character have functioned in Kerala from very early days. In the early and mediaeval periods local institutions called *kuttams* checked the despotism of the rulers and preserved the rights and privileges of the people at large. The Quilon District had its own *kuttams* which functioned vigorously at various levels. Venad had an assembly which was called *Munnuttuvar* (Three Hundred) in the 10th century and *Arunnuttuvar* (Six Hundred) in the 12th century. The Kings carried on the administration of the kingdom in accordance with the wishes of this assembly. Local self-governing institutions of this kind functioned actively in some form or other down to modern times until they disappeared with the break-up of the self-sufficient village economy all over the country in the wake of the British conquest and occupation of the country in the mid-nineteenth century.

Growth of Local Self-Government in modern times

The origin of modern Local Self-Government in the District goes back to the year 1894 when the Travancore Town Improvement and Conservancy Regulation was passed. The Regulation provided for a Town Improvement Committee and a Town Fund for Quilon. Several Sub-committees were appointed to consider and report on such matters as scavenging, slaughter houses, bathing ghats, street lamps, public latrines etc. The membership of these committees varied from five to nine with a permanent official majority. In 1895 rules were framed to regulate vehicle traffic under the Town Improvement Committee. Special sanitary arrangements were made in Quilon in order to prevent the possible importation of plague into the city. The permanent conservancy establishment at Quilon was strengthened in 1898. The system of private scavenging improved considerably under the Town Improvement Committee.

In 1900 the limits of the Quilon town were enlarged. The Regulation of 1894 was superseded by the Regulation of 1901, which authorised local taxation with the prior sanction of the Government. In 1903 (1079 K.E.) house scavenging was introduced under the Town Conservancy and Improvement Regulation followed a few years later by the scavenging fees system. By the year 1910 (1085 K.E.) house tax began to be levied. Regulation V of 1085 (1909) introduced certain amendments in order to improve the working of the Regulation. The President of the Town Improvement Committee was given increased powers of appointment and punishment. In 1911 the tax payers of Quilon town were allowed to elect four non-official members to the Committee. Regulation II of 1088 (1912) gave the President powers of inspection and control of sale of foodstuffs and aerated water. The supervision and control of cattle pounds was also transferred to the Town Improvement Committee in the same year. Since 1918 with the increase in the number of non-official members the Committee came to have a non-official majority. A further advance was made in the next year when a non-official President was appointed to the Town Improvement Committee of Quilon. His powers were enhanced in 1921 and in 1922 the pay of the Municipal establishment was revised. Street lighting in Quilon town was also undertaken by the Council at its own cost. Besides attending to public health and sanitation, the Council also discharged some other obligatory functions like vaccination and registration of births and deaths.

In 1941 the Travancore District Municipalities Act was passed in order to reorganise the existing municipalities in the State and according to the provisions of this Act the Quilon Municipality among other municipalities in the State was also reorganised. The latest piece of municipal legislation in Kerala is the Kerala Municipalities Act 1960 which is in operation at present.

The first step towards the development of local self-government in the rural areas of the Quilon District was taken with the promulgation of the Travancore Village Panchayat Act in 1100 K.E. (1925).[1] Under this Act the Government had power to declare any revenue village or group of villages as a village for the purposes of this Act, and set up a Village Panchayat for the area. The Panchayat was to consist of not less than

1 The year in which the Travancore Village Panchayat Act was passed is 1100 K.E. (1925) and not 1110 (1935) as stated in the *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, (p. 626).

5 and not more than 11 members. The duties of the Panchayats were classified as obligatory and discretionary. The obligatory functions included the construction, maintenance and repair of communications and drains, street cleaning, excavation, maintenance and improvement of wells and tanks for the supply of water to the public for drinking and bathing, construction and maintenance of bathing ghats, opening and maintenance of burial grounds, control and management of cattle pounds and the enforcement of sanitation. The discretionary functions comprised of primary education, lighting of public places, planting of avenue trees, improvement of agriculture and cattle and development of cottage industries. The Act laid greater emphasis on the principle that all grants given by Government together with the contributions made by the villagers were to be spent in the village itself for the villagers and by the villagers themselves.

The Travancore Village Union Act of 1940 provided for Village Unions, a type of local-self-governing organisation, slightly less powerful than the Village Panchayats. They enjoyed the status of corporate bodies and had perpetual succession and a common seal. They could sue and be sued in their corporate name. They could also acquire, hold and transfer property, and enter into contracts. The tenure of the members was fixed as 3 years. A few years later the control of these organisations was put in the hands of the Registrar of Village Unions and Panchayats. Within the limits of their resources the Village Unions attended to certain public utility services such as cleaning of streets, the construction, maintenance and improvement of wells and tanks for the supply of drinking water to the public, opening of burial and burning grounds, control and management of cattle pounds and provision for stud bulls, sanitation, clearing silt from canals or channels and carrying out of petty irrigation works. Moreover, the Government used to ask the Village Unions to undertake the performance of any function which the former thought fit.

The first piece of Panchayat legislation after independence in the Travancore-Cochin area was the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act II of 1950 which governed the Panchayats in Quilon District and the rest of the Travancore-Cochin area till recently. The first Panchayats to be constituted under this Act assumed office on August 15, 1953.

The present Panchayat Act which is in operation in the Quilon District as elsewhere in Kerala is the Kerala Panchayats

Act of 1960 which provides for a unified and decentralised system of administration of village affairs through Panchayats by organising them as units of local-self-government at village level. The Act unified and consolidated different laws regarding Panchayats which existed in the Travancore-Cochin area and in the Malabar area.

THE QUILON MUNICIPALITY

Quilon is the only Municipality in the District. Started in the late 19th century as a Town Improvement Committee it was constituted into a Municipality in 1921. It has an area of 6.3 sq. miles comprising portions of Quilon, Eravipuram and Vadakkevila villages. According to the Census of 1961 the population is 91,018. Quilon is a Grade I Municipality, its annual income being above Rs. 5 lakhs. It is now governed by the Kerala Municipalities Act of 1960.[1]

The authorities vested with the administration of the Quilon Municipality are the Council, the Chairman, the Commissioner and the Standing Committee of the Council. The entire Municipal area is divided into 30 wards. Of these 28 wards elect one member each to the Municipal Council and two wards two members each, a seat each being reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in these two wards. The strength of the Council is thus 32. All the members are elected on the basis of adult franchise and continue in office normally for five years. The Councillors elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among themselves. Their term of office is also co-extensive with that of the Councillors. When the office of the Chairman is vacant, the Vice-Chairman exercises the functions of the Chairman until the new Chairman assumes office. The Councillors, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, are eligible for re-election.

The executive authority rests with the Municipal Commissioner who is appointed by the Government after consultation with the Municipal Council. He is responsible for the custody of all the records of the Municipal Council including all papers and documents connected with the proceedings of the Council, Standing Committee and other Committees. He is directly under the control of the Director of Municipalities, Kerala State.

1 For a brief outline of the Act see *Kozhikode District Gazetteer*. pp. 641-44.

The Municipality has constituted a Standing Committee from among the members of the Council. It consists of seven members and is presided over by a Chairman elected by the members of the committee from among themselves. The powers and duties of the Standing Committee are determined by the Council under bye-laws framed for the purpose. In addition to the powers and duties conferred or imposed by or under the Act or such bye-laws the Standing Committee:—(a) shall supervise the utilisation of the budget grants; (b) shall have access to the accounts of the Council and may require the Commissioner to furnish any explanation which it considers to be necessary as to the receipts and expenditure of the municipal fund; (c) may conduct a monthly audit of the municipal accounts and disbursements for the preceding month as furnished by the Commissioner; and (d) may, at the instance of the Commissioner and with the sanction of the Council, write off such sums due to the Council as appear to the Committee to be irrecoverable. Apart from the Standing Committee there are also several Sub-Committees of the Council like Vigilance Committee, Poor House Committee, Enquiry Committee, Library Grant Committee and Library Books Checking Committee.

The Municipal Office has, in addition to the Commissioner, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 2 Revenue Inspectors, 3 Public Works Overseers, 16 Clerks, 2 Typists, 13 Aminadars, 1 Lady Doctor, 4 Health Inspectors, 10 Health Assistants, 3 Vaccinators, 1 Mechanic, 4 Drivers, 1 Births and Deaths Registrar, 4 Midwives, 4 Attenders, 1 Daffadar, 1 Market Sergeant, 1 Librarian, 2 Works Superintendents, 29 Peons and 3 Cleaners. The Contingent establishment consists of 96 scavengers, 32 thotties, 47 sweepers, 4 gardeners, 4 watchers, 2 pound keepers, 4 sweepers for the Child Welfare Centres, and 14 mosquito control workers.

Financial Resources

The sources of income of the Municipality are (1) Government grants, (2) Municipal rates and taxes such as taxes on property, animals, professions, trades and advertisements, (3) revenue from Municipal properties and (4) taxes levied from cattle pounds, entertainments etc., under Special Acts. It also collects fees such as licence fees, cart stand fees, private scavenging fees, warrant fees etc.

In 1960-61 the Quilon Municipality got grants amounting to Rs. 98,207 from the Government. Apart from Government

grants the Municipality derived income from the rates and taxes levied by them. The details are given below.

1. *Property Tax*

The rate of assessment for buildings was 6¼% on the annual letting value and for lands 1% on the annual yeild of the landed property. Properties which had an income of less than Rs. 60 per annum were exempted from taxation. The total number of buildings assessed to property tax in 1960-61 was 17,041. The demand including arrears was Rs. 3,66,147.23 of which Rs. 1,79,167.69 was collected, Rs. 174.53 written off leaving a balance of Rs. 1,86,805.01 as arrears as against Rs. 1,52,132 in 1959-60. The percentage of collection was about 49%.

2. *Tax on Professions and Trades*

Persons who have an half-yearly income of above Rs. 300 were assessed to profession tax. The rate of assessment was that fixed in the Act. The maximum half-yearly tax leviable ranges from Rs. 125 for an half-yearly income of more than Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 3 for an half-yearly income of Rs. 600 but not more than Rs. 1,200. Surcharge on profession tax was levied in respect of assessees who have an half-yearly income of Rs. 1,500 and above. In 1960-61, 6,748 persons were assessed to profession tax. The total demand including arrears was Rs. 2,85,703.61 of which Rs. 96,295.09 was collected, Rs. 5,978.04 written off and there was Rs. 1,93,430.40 pending collection, at the end of the year. The percentage of collection under profession tax was 33%.

3. *Tax on Vehicles and Animals*

The Council levies tax on motor boats only. Government have restricted the levy of tax on other vehicles. To compensate the consequential loss of revenue an annual grant of Rs. 10278 is given to the Council. The demand, collection and balance under the head for 1960-61 are shown below.

	Rs.
Demand	10,092.72
Collection	4,974 00
Write off	105.00
Balance	7,013.72

The percentage of collection was 41.

4. *Tax on Advertisements*

According to the provisions contained in the bye-laws to farm out or fix a consolidated amount of tax, the advertisements made by the theatre owners were compounded. In

1960-61 the total amount under demand including arrears was Rs. 10,869.54 of which Rs. 6,634.27 was collected and the balance of Rs. 4,235.27 was pending collection at the end of the year . The percentage of collection was nearly 60.

5. *Entertainment Tax*

There were 3 permanent theatres in the town. The rate of assessment of tax was 20% of the gross collection. The demand, collection and balance under the head were as follows in 1960-61:

	Rs.
Demand	82,395.37
Collection	79,885.42
Balance	2,509.95

Licenses

Licenses were granted for offensive and dangerous trades, factories and building construction. In 1960-61 the total number of licenses issued was 3,004. Licensing under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 was also enforced. The demand, collection and balance under the head during the year were as follows:

	Rs.
Demand	46,428.32
Collection	32,563.37
Write off	16.00
Balance	13,848.95

The percentage of collection was 70.

Other Sources

The other main sources of income were the following:

		Rs.
1.	Markets	46,372
2.	Slaughter house	6,104
3.	Library	1,105
4.	Conservancy receipts	9,207
5.	Fines and penalties	4,302
6.	Cattle Pounds	1,330
7.	Rent on land	7,386
8.	Sale of old materials	655

The incidence of taxation per head of the population in Quilon municipal town in 1960-61 was Rs. 5.3 as against Rs. 4.60 during the previous year.

The financial position of the Quilon Municipality for the year 1960-61 is given in Appendix I.

Municipal activities

The functions of the Municipality include maintenance and supervision of markets, parks, libraries, bridges, cattle pounds and buildings belonging to the Municipality. All the roads and lanes are provided with electric street lights. The total number of street lights in the town is 1,688. The total expenditure on street lighting in 1960-61 was Rs. 49,814. A lorry with a tank fitted with spraying arrangements is maintained for watering the roads during dry weather.

There was no protected water supply in the town till the inauguration of the Quilon Water Supply Scheme in February 1963.[1] But even after this drinking water was obtained from wells. During drought, drinking water was supplied at the cost of the Municipal Council.

The sanitary and public health activities of the Municipality are under the immediate charge of the Health Officer under the Council. Public health activities include registration of births and deaths, vaccination and innoculation for cholera and typhoid. Midwives give ante-natal services to pregnant women at the latter's houses. Mosquito control activities are also carried on by the Municipality. A unit consisting of 14 workers n Filaria Control Wing is also working in the Municipality. The main work of this section is concerned with pistia clearance. One Health Inspector is specially deputed to detect food adulteration cases. The Government contributes a sum of Rs. 8,000 for public health activities annually.

There are 13 public latrines maintained by the Municipality at important centres of the town in addition to 2 public comfort stations. About 6000 houses have been brought under scavenging service. The night soil and street sweepings are daily removed to the Night Soil Depot by means of lorries for conversion into manure. In 1960-61 23,000 paras of compost manure were sold at the rate of 37 nP. per para.

The Municipality repairs, maintains and cleans every day almost all minor roads, lands and by-lanes. 33 miles of roads are swept daily and 25 miles of roads periodically. The important centres in the town are swept even twice a day. The Municipality attends to necessary sanitary and lighting arrangements in connection with local fairs and festivals. Within the town limits there are two public cremation and burial grounds,

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1 For a detailed account of the Quilon Water Supply Scheme please see Chapter XVI.

where two watchers are on duty. There are a few sectarian burial and burning grounds also.

There is a Municipal Library in the Quilon town. A distributing library unit is also attached to it. In 1960-61 it was equipped with 2,781 English books, 5,107 Malayalam books, 553 Hindi books, and 756 Tamil books. This library got a grant of Rs. 600 from the Grandhasala Sanghom during the year. To encourage local libraries a sum of Rs. 50 each is given to 8 libraries and reading rooms in the town. A monthly grant of Rs. 5 is given to one reading room owned by Thatchar Karayogam. A grant of Rs. 10 per mensem is given to Majeedia Free Night School.

Four public markets are owned by the Quilon Municipality. Three other markets formerly conducted by private individuals but taken over under the control of the Council on lease terms are also run as public markets. The public markets provide a substantial income to the Municipality. The Council maintains a slaughter house also and the income from it exceeds Rs. 6,100.

There are four Child Welfare Centres in the Quilon Municipality. All these institutions are under a Lady Doctor. Milk feeding is carried on at the Child Welfare Centres. In 1960-61, 4,885 lbs of milk powder was received from the Public Health Department. The Welfare Centres get aid from the UNICEF in the form of medicines and vitamin tablets.

There is a scheme for the construction of a stadium in the Quilon Municipal Maidan. It is proposed to meet the expenses connected with it from Government grants and public donations. The work of a committee, consisting of officials and non-officials, to raise the fund is in progress. The construction of a park at the Kochupilamoodu Beach side is also in progress. There is a Children's Park in the vicinity of the Municipal buildings at Thevally. Seven Radio sets are in operation in different parts of the town.

Town Planning

The Municipality of Quilon did not till recently pay much attention to Town Planning activities. But the Government of Kerala have set up a Town Planning Department under a Chief Town Planner, with jurisdiction over Municipalities also. This Department is responsible for the scientific planning of towns and villages in Kerala. Among other activities it is entrusted with

the preparation of master plans, slum clearance schemes etc., for Municipalities. In Quilon District, the Department is mainly concerned with the preparation of a Master Plan for Quilon Town. The Master Plan work was started in 1961-62. Preliminary investigation works such as Topographic Survey, Land Use Survey, Socio-Economic Survey etc., of the town have been completed and the Master Plan is now in the drafting stage.

PANCHAYATS

The Directive Principles of State Policy, contained in Article 40 of the Indian Constitution proclaim, that the State shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of local self-government. Consequently the Panchayats that existed in different parts of the State were reconstituted on the basis of an Act passed in 1950 (Travancore Cochin Panchayat Act II of 1950) With the passing of the Act new Panchayats were also set up in places where there were neither Panchayats nor Village Unions. These new Panchayats started functioning with effect from August 15, 1953. The latest piece of Panchayat legislation which is in operation is the Kerala Panchayats Act of 1960. It provides for a unified and decentralised system of administration of village affairs through Panchayats by organising them as units of local self-government at village level.[1]

Organisation of Panchayats

The entire District of Quilon excluding the Quilon Municipal area was till recently divided into 87 Panchayats.[2] Accordingly there were 19 Panchayats in the Quilon Taluk, 17 in Kottarakara Taluk, 10 in Kunnathur Taluk, 20 in Pathanamthitta Taluk, 8 in Pathanapuram Taluk and 13 in Karunagapally Taluk. The area of the Panchayat is generally coterminous with the revenue unit viz., the village, but in certain cases more than one village or parts thereof constitute a Panchayat.

1 For a breif outline of the Kerala Panchayats Act 1960 see *Kozhikode District Gazetteer*, pp. 646-51.

2 As per the recent delimitation made according to the provisions of the Kerala Panchayats Act 1960 there are 96 Panchayats in Quilon District. Elections to these new Panchayats were held in November—December 1963, and they assumed office on January 1, 1964.

The Panchayat is governed by a representative body elected on the basis of adult franchise. The Panchayat area is divided into wards for the purpose of election. In those wards where the Scheduled Castes constitute not less than five percent of the total number of voters, a seat is reserved for them. All the rest are single member wards. The number of members in each Panchayat is fixed by the Government on the basis of population. According to the Panchayats Act 1960, Panchayat areas with a population not exceeding 10,000 at the latest census elect seven members and Panchayat areas with a population exceeding 10,000 elect one additional member for every population of 3,500 subject to a maximum of 15 members. A Panchayat to which no woman has been elected as member is entitled to nominate a woman to be a member of the Panchayat at a special meeting convened for the purpose. The term of office of the members of a Panchayat is fixed as five years under the Act. But the Government may, by notification in the Gazette, reduce or extend the term of office of the members of any Panchayat. Soon after the Panchayat election, the members of each Panchayat elect from among themselves a President and a Vice-President at a meeting duly convened for the purpose. When the office of the President falls vacant, an acting President can be appointed by the Director of Panchayats until a new President is elected.

The administration of the Panchayat area is vested in the whole Panchayat comprising of the President, Vice-President and the members. The President convenes meetings of the Panchayat, forwards half-yearly reports to the Deputy Director of Panchayats, and performs all the duties and exercises all the powers specifically conferred on the President by the Act. The President has full access to all records of the Panchayat and no official correspondence between the Panchayat and the Deputy Director and authorities above him may be conducted, except through the President. The Panchayat meets at least once in a month. One-third of the total number of members forms the quorum for ordinary meetings, but for special meetings the quorum is half the number of members. The Panchayat may constitute Functional Committees for different subjects such as sanitation, communication, public health, education etc. Such Committees may consist of both Panchayat members and others who are interested in the public welfare and who are nominated by the Panchayat The Panchayat may constitute also Ward Committees with the ward members and other local inhabitants nominated by the Panchayat to study

and report on the needs of the wards. In cases of emergency the President or the executive authority of the Panchayat can order any work of the Panchayat to be executed without the previous sanction of the Panchayat. But such action has to be reported to the committee at its next meeting and has to be ratified by it. The President has to make a report to the Director of Panchayats, within three days after each meeting of the Panchayat, about the proceedings of the meeting.

Panchayat administration and control

For purposes of administration the Panchayats are classified into four Grades on the basis of their annual income inclusive of grants and contributions from Government.[1] The following are the four grades of Panchayats.

1. *Special Grade.* Panchayats having an income of more than Rupees one lakh and which are notified as special grade by the Government.

2. *Grade I.* Panchayats having an income between Rs. 50,000 and Rupees one lakh.

3. *Grade II.* Panchayats having an income between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000.

4. *Grade III.* Panchayats having an income of less than Rs. 20,000.

For the proper conduct of Panchayat administration, whole time executive officers called Panchayat Officers are appointed by the Government in all Panchayats. There are four grades of Panchayat Executive Officers corresponding to the fourfold classification of Panchayats on the basis of income. They are:—

1. Special Grade Panchayat Executive Officers on Rs. 150-250.
2. Grade I Panchayat Executive Officers on Rs. 100-200.
3. Grade II Panchayat Executive Officers on Rs. 80-180.
4. Grade III Panchayat Executive Officers on Rs. 40-120.

The executive power of the Panchayat rests with the Panchayat Officer. He has the right to attend the meetings of the Panchayat but he cannot move resolutions or take part in the voting. He is bound to carry out the resolutions of the Panchayat, execute Panchayat works subject to the provision made in the annual budget, maintain records and control and

1 G.O. MS. 183/63/DD. dated 2-3-1962.

supervise subordinate servants of the Panchayat. He carries on correspondence on behalf of the Panchayat, but as noted earlier, such correspondence takes place only through the President. The President, however, is bound to transmit to the proper destination all the papers sent to him by the Panchayat Officer. If the Panchayat does not have a Panchayat Officer the latter's duties devolve on the President. The Government of Kerala have also conferred the powers of a *Provcrthicar* in respect of the Revenue Recovery Act on the executive authorities of certain Panchayats in the State.[1]

Above the Panchayat Officers there are the Panchayat Inspectors. There is a Panchayat Inspector for each Block including shadow Block to superintend the working of the Panchayat. But in Block areas his designation is Extension Officer for Panchayats cum Panchayat Inspector. There are seventeen such Panchayat Inspectors in the Quilon Revenue District. They inspect the accounts of the Panchayats once in every month. They are also the authorities empowered to countersign the Pay and T.A. Bills of the Executive Officers and the staff of the Panchayats.

At district level there is a District Panchayat Officer who is the immediate superior of the Panchayat Inspectors. He is empowered to inspect and superintend the working of the Panchayats. He is immediately responsible to the Deputy Director of Panchcayats, Quilon, who is the Regional Officer having jurisdiction over three revenue districts.

Functions of the Panchayats

According to the Kerala Panchayats Act 1960 the Panchayat has the following obligatory functions:

(a) the construction, repair and maintenance of all public roads in the Panchayat area other than roads classified as National Highways, State Highways, the roads of the Malabar District Board and of all bridges, culverts, road-dams and cause-ways on such roads;

(b) the lighting of public roads and public places;

(c) the construction of drains and the disposal of drainage water and sullage;

(d) the cleansing of streets, the removal of rubbish heaps, jungle growth and prickly-pear, the filling in of disused

1 Vide Notification—Revenue B Department No. 46065|B3|60|Rd dated November 11, 1960.

wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches, pits or hollows and other improvements of the sanitary condition of the Panchayat area;

(e) the provision of public latrines and arrangements to cleanse latrines whether public or private;

(f) the opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds;

(g) the sinking and repairing of wells, the excavation repair and maintenance of ponds or tanks and the construction and maintenance of water-works for the supply of water for washing and bathing and drinking purposes;

(h) preventive and remedial measures connected with any epidemic or with malaria;

(i) control of offensive and dangerous trades;

(j) construction and maintenance of petty irrigation works;

(k) control of cattle pounds;

(l) registration of births and deaths.

In addition to the obligatory functions, a Panchayat may also, if it deems fit, make reasonable provisions for carrying out the requirements of the Panchayat area in respect of the following matters viz.,

(i) Agriculture:

(a) the improvement of agriculture and establishment of model agricultural farms;

(b) the establishment of granaries;

(c) bringing under cultivation waste and fallow lands belonging to or vested in the Panchayat;

(d) ensuring conservation of manurial resources, cultivation of green manure, preparing compost and sale of manure;

(e) the establishment and maintenance of nurseries of improved seeds and seedlings;

(f) provision of implements, stores, insecticides, etc;

(g) the promotion of co-operative farming;

(h) the conducting of crop experiments. launching of crop protection schemes and crop competitions;

(i) the construction, repair and maintenance of irrigation works, field channels and distribution of water;

(j) encouraging farmers' clubs and other associations of agriculturists;

(k) assistance in the implementation of land reform scheme;

(l) execution of soil conservation schemes;

(ii) Animal husbandry:

(a) improvement of cattle and cattle breeding and the general care of livestock;

(b) the promotion of dairy farming;

(c) the maintenance of stud-bulls and stud-goats;

(d) the promotion of poultry farming and bee-keeping;

(e) conducting cattle and poultry shows;

(iii) Education and culture:

(a) the spread, supervision and improvement of education;

(b) the establishment and maintenance of children's parks, clubs and other places of recreation for the welfare of women and youth;

(c) the promotion of art and culture including the establishment and maintenance of theatres;

(d) the establishment, maintenance and encouragement of reading rooms and libraries;

(e) noon-feeding of school children;

(f) the establishment and maintenance of community listening sets, recreation centres and centres for physical culture, sports and games;

(g) the erection of memorials for celebrities and historical personages;

(iv) Social Welfare:

(a) maternity and child welfare including the establishment and maintenance of orphanages and foundlings homes;

(b) the relief of the old and the infirm and the physically handicapped and the sick;

(c) assistance to the residents when any natural calamity occurs;

(d) family planning;

(e) organising voluntary labour for community works for the development of the villages;

(f) destitute homes and beggar homes;

(v) Public health and sanitation:

(a) preservation and improvement of public health;

(b) supply of water;

(c) sanitation, conservancy and the prevention and abatement of nuisance and disposal of carcasses of animals;

(d) the disposal of unclaimed corpse;

(e) the disposal of unclaimed cattle;

(f) the taking of measures to prevent the outbreak, spread and recurrence of any infectious disease and vaccination;

(g) the reclaiming of unhealthy localities;

(h) providing medical relief;

(i) the inoculation of animals and birds;

(j) the disposal of stray and ownerless dogs;

(k) the establishment and maintenance of dispensaries and the payment of subsidies to rural medical practitioners;

(l) control of fairs and festivals;

(m) maintenance of the purity of fish, meat and other food stuffs;

(vi) Public Works:

(a) the planting of trees along roads, in market places and other public places and their maintenance and preservation;

(b) the construction, maintenance and control of bathing and washing ghats;

(c) the construction and maintenance of buildings for warehouses, stores, shops, purchasing centres etc.,

(d) construction and maintenance of houses under colonisation and settlement schemes;

(e) construction and maintenance of choultries and rest houses;

(f) construction and maintenance of houses for Panchayats staff and other village functionaries;

(g) the establishment and maintenance of works for the provision of employment, particularly in times of scarcity;

(h) the extension of village sites and the regulation of buildings and housing schemes;

(i) the opening of and maintenance of public markets, slaughter-house, bus stands, cart-stands, landing places, halting places and ferries and also the licensing of such places opened and maintained by private individuals and institutions; and

(vii) General:

(a) preparation of plans for the development of the Panchayat area;

(b) the promotion, improvement and encouragement of cottage and village industries;

(c) promotion of pisciculture;

(d) preservation of objects of archaeological interest;

(e) the promotion of social and moral welfare of the inhabitants of the Panchayat area including the promotion of prohibition, promotion of social equality, amelioration of the condition of the backward classes, the eradicating of corruption and the discouragement of gambling, litigation and other anti-social activities;

(f) the encouragement of any of the services and activities mentioned above by grant-in-aid or otherwise;

(g) any other measure of work which is likely to promote the health, safety, education, comfort, convenience or social or economic or cultural well-being of the inhabitants of the Panchayat area.

Financial Resources

Under the provisions of the Kerala Panchayats Act (1960) every Panchayat has to levy in its area a building tax, a profession tax and a vehicle tax. The building tax has to be levied on all buildings in the Panchayat area at such percentage of the net annual rental value of the building as may be fixed by the Panchayat subject to a maximum of 10 per cent and a minimum of 4 per cent. The profession tax has to be levied from every company which transacts business and every person who exercises a profession within the Panchayat area at such rates as may be fixed by the Panchayat not exceeding the maximum rates prescribed under the rules. The vehicle tax may be levied on all vehicles except motor vehicles kept or used in the Panchayat area at such rates as may be fixed by the Panchayat not exceeding the maximum rates prescribed. A cess on all lands in the Panchayat area except those exempted by the Government has to be levied at the rate of 2 nP. per annum for every 5 cents of land or part thereof. Land cess is to be collected as if it is a basic tax. Service tax not exceeding such rates as may be prescribed for sanitation, water supply, scavenging, street lighting and drainage may be levied

with the sanction of the Director. A duty in the form of a surcharge on the duty imposed by the Kerala Stamp Act 1960 shall be levied on certain transfers of property in the Panchayat area. The Panchayat may, if it resolves, also levy a show tax on all shows in its area at the rates prescribed by the Government. The Act also provides for payment by the Government annually to each Panchayat a grant which shall be equal as near as may be to ¾ of the amount of basic tax collected by the Government from the Panchayat area in the preceding year. The Government has also to pay to the Panchayats a grant the aggregate of which shall be as near as may be equal to the balance of the basic tax collected by the Government in the preceding year from all the lands in the State in such proportion as may be fixed by the Government in having regard to the area, population, available resources and needs of development of the Panchayats and the cost of the Panchayat administration. In addition a Panchayat may with the sanction of the Director levy either from the whole Panchayat area or for any specific portion thereof for a specified period a surcharge on building tax in order to cover any unusual expense incurred by it in respect of education, treatment of diseases including maternity and child welfare services, supply of protected water, scavenging and drainage. The surcharge is however not to exceed ¼ of the tax levied.

Moreover, Government also usually sanctions Special Grants to Panchayats every year for specific purposes. Other grants given by Government are building grants and establishment grants. Building grants are sanctioned to a few Panchayats every year for the construction of their office buildings. Four or five Panchayats are selected each year for this purpose and each is given about Rs. 2,500. The balance required for the purpose has to be met from the Panchayats.

The total receipts and expenditure in respect of the 87 Panchayats in Quilon District for each of the years from 1956-61 are given below.

Year	*Receipts*	*Expenditure*
	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.
1956-57	5,88,463.81	7,69,093.33
1957-58	6,73,578.92	9,12,795.00
1958-59	7,46,192.19	11,91,554.49
1959-60	8,26,945.53	1,06,841.11
1960-61	9,02,756.99	10,04,418.03

1. This does not include Government Grants and contributions.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PANCHAYATS

A good portion of the income of the Panchayats in this District is spent on public works. Besides maintaining the existing roads, many of them have constructed new roads, culverts and bridges, improved tanks and wells and built bathing ghats and latrines. The Government has taken steps to entrust the maintenance of all village roads to the Panchayats. Panchayats are also attending to many minor irrigation works entrusted to them by the Government for execution. Bus stops situated in the various Panchayat areas have also been given for maintenance to the respective Panchayats. 79 out of 87 Panchayats in the District are provided with electric lights for street lighting. A good number of Panchayats give grants to reading rooms and libraries. In 1960-61 a total sum of Rs. 15,993.18 was spent by 66 Panchayats in this District for this purpose. Eight Panchayats conduct educational institutions. Kalluvathukkal and Chadayamangalam Panchayats have a High School each under their control. Kadakkal Panchayat is running an Upper Primary School. Five other Panchayats, viz., Thrikkaruva, Punalur, Pathanapuram, Yerur and Edamulakkal own Lower Primary Schools. The Yerur and Punalur Panchayats have four and three Lower Primary Schools respectively under their control. In this connection it may also be mentioned that almost all the Panchayats in the District have Radio sets.

The Public Health activities include street sweeping, scavenging and maintenance of midwifery centres. All have appointed full time or part time sweepers to attend to sweeping of roads, markets, cart stands and other public places. The Panchayats at Mulavana, Oachira, Thekkumbhagam, Kottarakara, Melila, Edamulakkal, Punalur, Adur, Pathanamthitta, Ranni, Ayadi, Ranni-Perinad, Aruvappalam and Konni are running Midwfery Centres. Protected water supply schemes in Panchayat areas are attended to directly by the Public Health Engineering Department. But in all the 87 Panchayats there are masonry drain wells constructed by Panchayats. The executive authorities of Panchayats take action to check adulteration of food stuffs. 80 Panchayats in the District pay grants to Ayurveda and Visha Vaidyasalas. Vaccination is attended to in all villages directly by the Health Services Department. The Director of Health Services is directed to post Health Assistants and Midwives in all the

Panchayats. These officials are to submit regularly their work diaries to the President of Panchayats. The Presidents have to forward the diaries together with their remarks to the District Medical Officer.

The following table will convey a broad idea of the activities and achievements of the Panchayats in the District.[1]

1.	Number of Panchayats running	markets	73
	Do.	Cattle pounds	5
	Do.	Ferries	31
2.	No. of Panchayats having office buildings		41
3.	No. of Panchayats providing street lights		79
4.	No. of Panchayats having Radio sets		87
5.	No. of Panchayats which have appointed midwives		13
6.	No. of Panchayats rendering water supply		87
7.	No. of Panchayats paying grants to Vaidyasalas, libraries, Reading Rooms etc.		80
8.	No. of Panchayats conducting public schools		8

The total expenditure incurred by the Panchayats in Quilon on Public Works, Public Health and Medical Services and Educational and Cultural activities for each of the years from 1957 to 1961 are given below.

Year	*Public Works*	*Public Health and Medical Services*	*Educational & Cultural Activities*
	Rs nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.
1957-58	3 93,411 84	7.52,229 25	35,715.65
1958-59	3,05,124 72	1,08,327.00	34,104 55
1959-60	3,05,124 72	1,34.282 03	67,802 17
1960-61	5 62,866 00	2,782.00	26,168.00

ORGANISATION AND WORKING OF TWO TYPICAL PANCHAYATS

Punalur Panchayat

The Punalur Panchayat is one of the two First Grade Panchayats in the District. The Panchayat area is divided into 12 wards and the Panchayat consists of 13 members

1 The statistical data given here are based on the number of Panchayats that existed prior to the recent delimitation.

including one member of the Scheduled Castes. The members of the Panchayat meet at least once in a month. The staff pattern of this Panchayat is given below.

Posts	*Scales of Pay*
	Rs.
1. One Executive Officer	100-200
2. One Panchayat Assistant	35-80
3. Two Bill Collectors	30-40
4. One Midwife	35-80
5. Two Peons	25-35
6. One Librarian	30-40
7. Three full time sweepers	20-22

The Panchayat office is located in a building of its own constructed in 1958-59. The Panchayat spends half of its annual income on public works. The chief items of work undertaken include bridges, culverts, roads, footpaths, bathing ghats, school buildings, latrines, urinals, wells, irrigation tanks, and market improvements. A good portion of these works is executed under the Local Development Scheme.

This Panchayat has undertaken a scheme for supplying drinking water to the public. Tenders have been invited for the construction of a reservoir and installation of pumps and pipes required for the scheme. The Public Health and Sanitary arrangements are effectively functioning. The public market under the management of the Panchayat functions well. Special care is being taken to protect food-stuffs from contamination by issuing licences to Hotels and Teashops. In every year all the 9 wells in the Panchayat are drained and cleaned. Almost all the roads are provided with street lights, the total number of lights being 410. Libraries and Sports Clubs are also organised by the Panchayat. It conducts two ferry services in the Kallada River. It runs one cattle pound which is a safeguard against the havoc caused by stray cattle. The Panchayat has installed Radio sets at three different centres. There are three Primary Schools with a total staff of twenty members under this Panchayat.

The main sources of income in the Panchayat are land cess, house tax, profession tax, income from market, entertainment tax, and licence fees and expenditure goes under the items of Establishment, Public Works, Sanitation, Lighting and Miscellaneous.

The details of the Budget estimates of the Punalur Panchayet for the year 1961-62 are given below.

Income and Expenditure of Punalur Panchayat (1961-62)

INCOME	Amount.
	Rs.
1. Grants and contributions	3,450
2. Rates and taxes	42,350
3. Realisation under special regulations	450
4. Revenue derived from Panchayat properties	19,150
5. Miscellaneous	700
6. Debts and deposits	3,025
	69,125
Opening balance	19,024
	88,149
EXPENDITURE	
1. Establishment	7,820
2. Public Works	41,152
3. Sanitation and lighting	14,800
4. Miscellaneous	10,077
5. Debts and Deposits	2,300
	76,149
Working balance	12,000
	88,149

There has been considerable progress in the recoveries and expenditure of the Panchayat during recent years as will be seen from the statement of rece'pts and erpenditure for the period 1958-59 to 1960-61 given below.

	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.
Opening balance	13,390 39	17,085.41	3,103.00
Receipt during the year including grants	50,037.92	42,769.98	64,005.00
Grant total	63,428.31	59,855.39	67,108.00
Expenditure	46,342.90	56,752.81	56,155.00

Munro Island

The Munro Island is a Thrid Grade Panchayat. It consists of six wards and has seven members including one

member from among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The staff strength of the Panchayat is given below.

Post	Scale of Pay
	Rs.
1. One Executive Offi cer	40-120
2. One Panchayat Assistant	35-80
3. One Peon	25-35

The Panchayat is located in a building of its own constructed in 1959-60. It has carried on manifold activities utilising its limited resources. There are 33 street lights installed by the Panchayat. It has executed irrigation works costing Rs. 50,000 benefiting an area of about 250 acres of paddy fields. It has constructed and improved about 20 miles of roads. It runs a Maternity and Child Health Centre. The communication facilities of this Panchayat leave much to be desired since the entire area is surrounded by water. Hence the Panchayat has constructed a large number of activities over the different canals in the Panchayat area.

The main sources of income of the Panchayat are land cess, house tax and profession tax. The extract of the sanctioned budget of the Panchayat for 1961-62 is given below.

Receipts.	Rs.
1. Grants and contributions	3,500
2. Rates and taxes	2,415
3. Revenue derived from Panchayat properties	320
4. Miscellaneous	65
5. Debts and Deposits	305
Total	6,605
Opening balance as on April 1, 1961	11,771
	18,376

Expenditure.	Rs.
1. Establishment	3,440
2. Public Works	10,168
3. Sanitation and lighting	850
4. Miscellaneous	1,813
5. Debts and deposits	305
	16,576
Working balance	1,800
	18,376

Receipts and expenditure of the Panchayat for three years from 1958-59 to 1960-61 are furnished below:

	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.
Opening balance	740.09	3,619.54	5,973.00
Receipt during the year including grants	5,533.05	7,419.93	6,195.00
Grand total	6,273.14	11,039.47	12,168.00
Expenditure	2,659.60	5,066.17	11.168.00

PANCHAYAT RAJ

In this connection it would not be inappropriate to refer to some of the recent trends in the field of Local Self-Government. The Administrative Reforms Committee set up by the Government of Kerala in 1957-58 recommended a scheme of *Panchayat Raj* for making the Panchayats the basic units of administration. In 1959 the Government of Kerala decided to implement tentatively the recommendations of the Committe in a few selected Panchayats. *Panchayat Raj* was formally inaugurated in the State by Prime Minister Nehru at Ernakulam on 18th January 1960.

The scheme of Panchayat Raj is to be implemented in three stages. They are (1) Association of Panchayats with development and welfare activities at the village level, (2) Transfer of normal regulatory functions of Government at the village level to Panchayats and (3) Conversion of Panchayats into full-fledged units of administration at the village level. Two Blocks in each district were selected for the introduction of Panchayat Raj. Those selected in the Quilon District were Chavara and Konni N.E.S. Blocks. The former comprises of the Chavara, Panmana, Thevalakara and Thekkumbhagam Panchayats and the latter those of Vallikkode, Pramadom, Aruvappalam, Konni, Malayalapuzha and Kumbazha Mylapra. Under the scheme, these Panchayats will be associated more effectively with the activities now carried on by the various Government Departments and N.E.S. Blocks in the villages. Even though the scheme of Panchayat Raj was ordered to be implemented with effect from January 15, 1960, there has been no appreciable progress in the field so far.

APPENDIX—I.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of Municipalities

Receipts	*Quilon Municipality*				
	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Municipal rates and taxes	3,12,137.81	3,06,541.85	3,65,013.13	4,03,595.29	3,70,441.67
2. Realisation under Special Acts	946.50	1,165.16	1,439.50	1,177.00	1,330.50
3. Revenue dervided from Municipal properties and powers apart from taxation	74,420 33	1,00,326.68	95,517.25	1,04,895.12	1,13,763.15
4. Grants and contributions	19,278.00	36,039.20	65,800.31	56,292.80	84,122.80
5. Miscellaneous	4,405.20	4,600.40	5,801.37	3,691.90	8,875.71
6. Extraordinary debt.	36,015.44	65,658.55	21,854.76	1,62,749.03	3,56,210.11
Total	4,47,203.28	5,14,331.84	5,55,426.32	7,32,401.14	9,34,743.94
Disbursements.					
1. Public Works	71,429.09	98,042.37	1,22,418 43	1,83,254.06	1,70,625.50
2. Sanitation etc.	1,55,607.95	1,83,488.85	2,52,717.03	2,29,977.50	2,43,040.74
3. Lighting & miscellaneous Municipal purposes	50,700.83	52,854.71	53,167.33	63,122.84	2,82,637.37
4. Supervision and Management	1,10,549.09	1,19,353.53	1,30,076.33	1,90,222.30	1,73,317.94
5. Extraordinary and debt.	20,412.15	38,541.32	35,316.37	2,500.00	31,623.03
6. Debt Head	3,606.49	11,991.77	8,513.34	12,950.41	33,703.82
Total	4,12,306.20	5,04,272.55	6,02,208.83	6,82,027.11	9,34,948.40

CHAPTER XV.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

Quilon town which originally rose to prominence as an international emporium of trade and commerce attained fame also as a centre of learning and culture in the course of its long and chequered history. In the past under the rule of the enlightened kings of Venad, learning and culture flourished in several centres of this District. We have evidence to show that Vedic learning and studies were encouraged in medieval Venad. An inscription of the 12th or 13th century found engraved in the Manikanteswaram temple at Kottarakara makes mention of a *Salai* or Vedic College attached to it and also of certain restrictions and privileges in regard to admission to the *Salai*.[1] Perhaps, similar institutions were attached to other important temples also. Moreover, under Ravi Varma Kulasekhara, the illustrious king of Venad who ruled from 1299 to 1313, Quilon made its distinctive contributions in the field of learning and culture.[2] In the 14th century the congenial atmosphere of the Quilon court led to a flowering of literature and inspired the composition of such exquisite poems as the *Unnuneelisandesam*.

Quilon is also one of the early centres of Christianity in Kerala, and in the 16th century the Jesuit Missionaries seem to have established here a College of their own to promote the study of Christian theology and learning. The evidence of the existence of this Jesuit College is found in the letters of St. Francis Xavier. Writing to Fr. Simon Rodrigues in the 16th century Fr. Francis says, "Nicolas Lancilotti......is at Quilon where the climate is salubrious. He is busy there with the college of the Society (of Jesus). He is a man who seems to have been made for the people of Quilon. He supervises the erection of the college, where we shall admit as boarders Portuguese, Parawer, and Syrian (Christian) boys..............
(The buildings) should be spacious, so as to accommodate a sufficient number of Portuguese and native boys. At Quilon, there is a great abundance of all the necessaries of life and

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. VIII, p. 59.

2 See Chapter II.

they are very cheap, so that with little expense, we shall be able to maintain a large number of boys."[1] Though no information is available about the later history of this Jesuit College, the mere reference to it in the letters of St. Francis Xavier is proof of the importance of Quilon as a centre of Christian educational activity in the 16th century.

At the time of the British conquest of the country, the most important indigenous educational institutions of this region were the *Ezhuthupallies* or Pial Schools, *Kalaries* or Military Schools and the Vedic Schools. The *Ezhuthupalli* with an *Asan* or Village School master at its head provided facilities for the pupils to acquire elementary knowledge of the three Rs. The curriculum of studies in these schools included writing the letters of the alphabet in the sand, writing short verses on *Ola* or Cadjan-leaf, studying by heart some short verses of a devotional character etc. After undergoing studies in the *Ezhuthupallies* the pupils were sent to the *Kalaris* in order to get training in gymnastics and the use of arms. In almost every *Kara* or village there was a *Kalari* from where physical education was imparted. The Vedic Schools were the institutions meant for higher education in the *Vedas*, the *Sastras* and the *Upanishads*. Besides, those young men who were desirous of prosecuting higher studies attached themselves to individual scholars, physicians and astrologers of eminence who had the generosity and kindness to help the aspirants for knowledge.

Beginnings of State activity in the field of Education

It was in 1817 during the reign of Rani Gouri Parvathi Bai that the Government of Travancore began to interfere actively in the educational activities of the State. The Rani, with the assistance of Diwan Col. Munro, issued a decree directing that the State should defray the entire cost of the education of its people. Schools were established in several places in the wake of this proclamation. Every vernacular school was to have two teachers paid by the State. But the beginnings of English education may be traced only to the year 1834 when an English School was started at Trivandrum during the reign of Sri Swathi Thirunal. The policy of establishing English Schools was not confined to the capital town. District English schools were opened almost at the same time at Kayamkulam,

1 *St. Francis Xavier,* Chapter XXX, L.M. Zaleski, p. 226-27. Quoted in the *Souvenir, All India Industrial, Agricultural and Arts Exhibition, 1961, Quilon,* p. 93.

Kottar and other places. The present Government High School for Boys, the oldest departmental High School in Quilon, must have been set up at this time as one of the District Schools. In 1069 K.E. (1893-94) in furtherence of the Government's policy of having a range of 4 High Schools running from north to south at a distance of 40 miles from each other, the District Schools of Travancore including the one at Quilon were raised to the High School standard. At this time Christian Missionaries were also active in the field and Government followed a generous policy of aiding the private educational institutions started by them. We have information that in 1052 K.E. (1876-77) the School for Girls at Quilon received grant from the Government.

To the Carmelite Missionaries goes the abiding honour of promoting English education among the girls in the District. Under the patronage of the Bishop of Quilon the St. Joseph's Convent was opened at Quilon in 1875 and the Convent of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Tangasseri in 1885. To the former was attached the first English School for girls and to the latter a school for the education of poor European girls.

Growth of Literacy

Quilon has a high standard of literacy. The taluk-wise figures of literacy according to the Census of 1961 are given in the following table:

Taluk-wise Figures of Literacy in Quilon District (1961 Census)

Taluk	*Rural Urban*	*Total Population*			*Literate & educated persons*	
		Person	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
Pathanamthitta Taluk (No urban area)	Rural	333,310	167,540	165,770	106,670	88,457
Kunnathur Taluk (No urban area)	Rural	238,043	118,877	119,166	62,300	46,438
Karunagapally Taluk (No urban area)	Rural	265,187	133,004	132,183	77,150	53,797
Quilon Taluk	Total	525,590	263,059	262,531	160,883	117,931
	Rural	381,354	189,148	192,206	113,01	282,787
	Urban	144,236	73,911	70,325	47,871	35,144
Kottarakara Taluk (No urban area)	Rural	331,361	165,528	165,833	91,903	65,777
Pathanapuram Taluk (No urban area)	Rural	247,737	124,649	123,088	63,738	46,016

It may be noted that in the Census of 1951, 44.70% of the total population of the District were literate, the percentage of

literacy for males being 53.58 and that for females being 35.77. During the decade 1951-61 there has been a substantial increase in the number of literates in the District. The Census figures of 1961 show that 50.5% of the total population of the District are literate. The percentage of literacy among the male population is 57.8 while that among the female population is 43.2. It may be noted that there was some progress in literacy among women during the last ten years though the percentage of literacy among males remained more or less static. The Quilon District at present occupies the 4th rank among the Districts of Kerala in point of literacy.

Spread of Education among Women

Female education has recorded appreciable progress in the District since the 19th century. This was primarily due to the efforts of the Christian Missions. We have already referred to the establishment of two Girls Schools in the District by Christian Missionaries in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1876 the Mission School at Quilon began to receive grants from the Government. Co-education was being freely allowed in all the Vernacular Schools with a view to promoting education among women. Special Schools for girls also came to be established in due course. In 1960-61 out of 103 High Schools in the District, ten were exclusively meant for girl students. 9,079 students were studying in these Schools. The total number of girl students undergoing Secondary Education in the District during the year 1960-61 was 43,180 while the number of girl students in Primary Schools was 157,652.

In recent years the collegiate education of women has also received considerable attention. With the establishment of the Sree Narayana College for women at Quilon in 1951 female education in the District entered a decisive stage. Though this is the only Women's College in Quilon, the strength of the female element is considerable in all the other Colleges in the District.

Spread of Education among Backward Classes and Tribes

In recent years Government have launched several schemes for the advancement of education among the Scheduled Castes and Backward Communities. In addition to the exemption allowed to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the payment of fees, they are given lump sum grants for the purchase of books and clothings.[1] The

1 Please see Chapter XVII for details.

poor students belonging to the other backward classes are also given fee concession in all educational institutions. A certain number of seats in the technical schools and colleges are reserved for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Schools for Social Education, Adult Literacy Centres, Night Schools and Libraries have also been established in localities where the strength of the Scheduled Caste population is considerable.

In 1962 there were 56 Harijan Welfare Schools located in various parts of the Quilon District. Nine Tribal Schools were being run in the Taluks of Kottarakara, Pathanapuram and Pathanamthitta. In addition there were Industrial Training Centres at Oachira and Aycaud under the Grant-in-aid Scheme. Under a centrally sponsored scheme for the advancement of education among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes there were Model Welfare Villages at Vettikavala, Kulakada, Kalakode, Sooranad and Thalavur. Model Welfare Centres functioned at Ottukal and Shenduruni and Craft Centres at Chittarmankayam and Kadimeenchira.

A statement showing such particulars as the number of Harijan students in various stages of education, and the total amount spent on educational concessions to them in 1960-61 is given below.

Institutions	*No. of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*	*Amount spent* Rs.
Colleges for General Education	211	1,29,397
Training Colleges	1	731
Engineering College	4	2,727
S. N. Poly-technic	7	3,174
Vocational Institutions	92	37,339
TrainingSchools	23	2,044
High Schools	7,713	1,99,574
Primary Schools	39,626	2,88,846
Other Institutions	38	5,760

GENERAL EDUCATION

Organisation of the Education Department

The Quilon Revenue District comprises of two Educational Districts with headquarters at Quilon and Pathanamthitta respectively. Each of these Districts is under a District Educational Officer (D.E.O.) who is directly in charge of all the

Secondary Schools and Training Schools within his jurisdiction. While the Taluks of Quilon, Karunagapally, Kottarakara and Punalur form the Quilon Educational District, the Pathanamthitta Educational District comprises of the Kunnathur and Pathanamthitta taluks. Each Educational District is subdivided into Sub-Districts which are under Assistant Educational Officers (A.E.Os.). The Sub-Districts in the Quilon Educational District are Quilon, Kundara, Chathannur, Kottarakara, Kulakada, Punalur, Chadayamangalam and Karunagapally. Those in the Pathanamthitta Educational District are Sasthamcotta, Adur, Pathanamthitta, Kozhencherry and Ranni. The Assistant Educational Officers are in charge of the Primary Schools within their respective jurisdictions.

Nursery Schools

Pre-Primary classes of the Nursery (Kindergarten) school pattern are conducted in certain localities of the District for the education of the children below six years of age. In 1961-62 there were altogether 15 Nursery Schools. They are the following.

1. Kamala Memorial Nursery School, Kulakada,
2. Mount Tabor Convent Nursery School, Pathanapuram,
3. Neelakanta Vilasom Pre-Primary School, Quilon,
4. Ushagiri Sisuvihar, Chathannur,
5. New Nursery School, Pattazhi,
6. Mahilasamajam Nursery School, Pathanapuram,
7. Nursery School, Anchalummud,
8. Bathel Nursery School, Munroe Island,
9. Elite Kindergarten School, Tangasseri,
10. Nursery School, Mayyanad,
11. Nursery School at Kallelibhagam,
12. Mahilasamajam Nursery School, Munroe Island,
13. M.S.S. Nursery School, Mannadi,
14. Elangamangalam Mahila Samajam Nursery School. Enadimangalam,
15. Devika Nursery School, Konni.

Primary Schools

Primary Education which is free extends to a period of seven years. The first seven standards are collectively known as the primary grade and are divided into two sections. They are (1) Lower Primary and Junior Basic containing any or all of the Standards I to IV and (2) Upper Primary and Senior Basic containing any or all of the Standards V to VII. All

Primary Schools are mixed schools and have Malayalam as the medium of instruction.

In the School year 1960-61 there were 635 Lower Primary Schools and 189 Upper Primary Schools. Among the 635 Lower Primary Schools 367 were run by Government and 268 by private agencies. Among the 189 Upper Primary Schools 50 were Government Schools and 139 were Private Schools. The table given at Appendix I shows the number of Primary Schools in each Educational Sub-District along with the number of pupils and teachers in them in 1960-61.

Secondary Schools

Standards VIII, IX and X are collectively known as the Secondary Grade. The Secondary Schools are run by Government as well as by private agencies. The medium of instruction is generally Malayalam. However, for pupils whose mother-tongue is Tamil, provision is made for giving instruction in Tamil, if there be sufficient number of pupils. In 1960-61 there were 103 Secondary Schools in the Quilon District of which 58 were under the District Educational Officer, Quilon and 45 under the District Educational Officer, Pathanamthitta. The following table shows the number of Secondary Schools in each Educational District.

Secondary Schools in Quilon, 1960-61

Educational District	No. of Schools		No. of students		No. of teachers	
	Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Quilon	15	43	38,084	26,563	1,561	781
Pathanamthitta	7	38	22,234	16,617	1,109	479
Total	22	81	60,318	43,180	2,670	1,260

Basic Schools

Basic Education was introduced in the State by private enterprise in 1946. Since 1958-59 the policy of orienting Primary Schools towards the basic pattern is being progressively implemented by Government. Activities which can foster a sense of self-reliance in the pupils have been included in the curriculum of studies. The contents in the syllabus also include pupils' self-government, cultural and recreational activities, Extension work which associates pupils with community and national life and practice of simple useful crafts. Basic Training Schools and other post-Basic institutions have also been started in order to meet the shortage of trained personnel for Basic Education.

Training Schools

There are ten Basic Training Schools in the District of which five are under the Quilon District Educational Officer and the rest under the Pathanamthitta District Educational Officer. The training course extends over a period of two years. The minimum qualification for admission to the course is a pass in the S.S.L.C. Examination. The candidates are selected by a Board constituted by the Public Service Commission. The selection of untrained teachers employed in Primary Schools for admission to the Training Schools is however made by the authorities of the Education Department. The successful trainees are awarded the Teacher's Training Certificate. In 1960-61 the total number of students in all the ten Training Schools of the District was 747. There were 40 teachers in these Schools.

COLLEGES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

There are five Colleges for general education in the Quilon District. They are the Sree Narayana College, Quilon, Fatima Mata National College, Quilon, Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta, St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry and Sree Narayana College for Women, Quilon. All these Colleges except the last one are co-educational institutions and are affiliated to the Kerala University. Brief accounts of each of the colleges are given below.

Sree Narayana College, Quilon

The Sree Narayana College, Quilon, was founded on the 16th June 1948 by the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam in the name of the late Sree Narayana Guru. It is situated at the Cantonment Maidan of the Quilon town. The management of the college is vested in the Sree Narayana Trusts, the Executive Committee of which is the Managing Committee of the College, together with the Principal, who is an *ex-officio* member. It offers instruction for the Pre-University Course and B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., and M.A. Degree Courses. In 1960-61 there were 1551 students on the rolls of the college and 83 members on its teaching staff. The College library had a collection of 16,028 volumes. Attached to the College there is a hostel which accommodates 130 male students.

Fatima Mata National College, Quilon

The Fatima Mata National College was founded by Rt. Rev. Dr. Jerome M. Fernandez, the Bishop of Quilon in 1951.

It is located in the Quilon town and is run by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Quilon. The administration of the college rests in a Managing Board consisting of five members. In 1960-61 the college had 1,373 students and 59 teachers. Instruction is offered for the Pre-University Course and B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., M.Sc. and M.Com. Degree Courses. The College has a good library of 13,035 volumes. Its hostel can accommodate 250 students at a time.

St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry

The St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry was established in June 1952 as a Second Grade College. In 1955 it was raised to the status of a First Grade College. It is administered by the Mar Thoma Church of Malabar. In 1960-61 there were 683 students on the rolls of the college and 43 members on its teaching staff. It imparts instruction for the Pre-University course and B.A. and B.Sc. Degree Courses. The college library contains 6,572 volumes. The college runs a hostel in which 158 students are accommodated.

Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta

The Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta, was established as a Second Grade College in August 1952 and in 1955 it was upgraded as a First Grade College. It is situated in the Azhur Village of Pathanamthitta Taluk. The College is administered by a Governing Board elected by the Orthodox Syrian Church. In 1960-61 it had 758 students on its rolls and 36 members on its teaching staff. The college provides instruction for the Pre-University course and B.A. and B.Sc. Degree Courses. There were 7,282 volumes in the college library. Attached to the College there are two hostels—one for men and the other for women students—which can accommodate sixty students in all.

Sree Narayana College for Women, Quilon

The Sree Narayana College for Women, located in Quilon town, was established in August 1951 by the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam. The management of the College is vested in the Sree Narayana Trusts, the Executive Committee of which is the Managing Committee of the College, together with the Principal, who is a member *Ex-Officio*. In 1960-61 there were 616 students on the rolls of the college and 42 members on its teaching staff. The college offers instruction for the Pre-University Course and B.A. and B.Sc. Degree

Courses. Its library has a collection of 3,732 books. There is a hostel attached to the college which accommodates 108 students.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Technical education in the Quilon District has received the attention of Government since the thirties. It is seen that there was a Carpentry School at Quilon in 1933. This School provided a three year course in Estimating, Arithmetic, Mensuration, Drawing, Building Materials, Construction, Carpentry and Cabinet-making. At the same time the Agricultural Department had been running Agricultural Schools at Konni and Kottarakara. In recent years technical education has achieved considerable progress, thanks to the interest taken by the Government and private agencies. The most important schools for technical education in the District at present are the Sree Narayana Polytechnic, Quilon, and the Junior Technical School, Adur. There is also an Extension Training Centre for Village Artisans and Village Level Workers at Kottarakara. Details of these institutions are given in the following sections.

Sree Narayana Polytechnic, Quilon

The Sree Narayana Poly-technic was started in 1957 by the Sree Narayana Trusts in the premises of the Sree Narayana College, Quilon. It was the first of its kind to be started in the private sector in Kerala State during the Second Five Year Plan. At the beginning of the year 1959-60 it was shifted to its present location at Kottiyam, a place about six miles away from Quilon town. The management of the institution is vested in the Sree Narayana Trusts, Quilon. Its administration is carried on by a governing body consisting of a nominee of the S.N. Trusts, representatives of both Central and State Governments, and a representative each from the Industry and the All India Council of Technical Education with the Principal of the Polytechnic as an *ex-officio* member. In 1960-61 there were 358 students on the rolls of the institution while the strength of the teaching staff was 24. It offers instruction for the Diploma in Engineering Examination in the Civil, Mechanical and Electrical branches. The library attached to the Poly-technic contains 700 volumes.

Junior Technical School, Adur

There is a Junior Technical School at Adur which was started in 1960-61. It seeks to divert pupils from purely

general education to productive occupations of a technical nature. The curricula consist of Humanities, Genereal Science, Engineering subjects and different trades. The course of study offered extends to a period of three years. The medium of instruction will be Malayalam in the beginning; but it will be changed into English by the time the students reach the final year of the course.

Industrial Training Institute, Quilon

An Industrial Training Institute is being set up in the Quilon District under the Craftsmen Training Scheme. It will start functioning in August 1963 with 248 students. 168 more students will be admitted from May 1964. The proposed in-take capacity of the Institute is thus 416. The site selected for the location of the Institute is in Perinad in the Quilon Taluk. The land acquisition work is in progress and the con-struction work on building will be completed in 1963-64.

Grant-in-Aid Technical Schools

Apart from these there are three Grant-in-aid Technical Schools in the Quilon District, viz., the S.N.V., Khadi Indus-tries, Paripally, the Weaving and Handi-Tailoring School, Chathannur and the Nazareth Orphanage Weaving School, Kottiyam. They are under the supervision of the Director of Technical Education. Grant at the rate of Rs. 40 per month is paid to the management of each school. These schools are engaged in training up students in spinning, weaving, car-pentry work etc.

Tailoring-Cum-Garment Making Centre, Thevally

A Tailoring-cum-Garment making centre is functioning at Thevally, Quilon. It is under the administrative control of the Director of Technical Education.

Extension Training Centre, Kottarakara

The Extension Training Centre, Kottarakara, was started on 6th April, 1953 in order to impart training to successful trainees from the Basic Agricultural Schools and to qualify them for the posts of *Grama Sevaks*. It is under the adminis-trative control of the Development Commissioner. The Centre provides a two-year integrated course of training for about 100 *Grama Sevaks* or Village Level Workers. The teaching staff consists of one Instructor each in Animal Husbandry,

Co-operation and Panchayats, Agricultural Engineering, Village and Cottage Industries, and Social Education, one part-time Instructor in Public Health, two Instructors in Agriculture, two Farm Supervisors. one Carpenter and Black-smith, one Artist-cum-photographer- cum- Cinema operator, one Physical Instructor- cum- Games Instructor-cum- Librarian and one Mechanic. There are two wings attached to the Extension Training Centre, viz., the Workshop Wing for Village Artisans and the Home Science Wing. While the former has been established for training village artisans, blacksmiths and masons, the latter was started for training *Grama Sevikas.* About 20 artisans undergo training in the workshop wing and each of them gets a stipend of Rs. 50. Practice in electrical wiring is also included in the syllabus for the training of village artisans. About 40 *Grama Sevika* trainees are being trained in the Home Science Wing. In addition to artisans and Village Level Workers, Deputy Collectors, Block Development Officers, and Tahsildars are also given training in this Centre. Moreover, batches of students from various Colleges of the State are given training here in Village Development Work during the mid-summer vacation. The trainees of the Extension Training Centre, Home Science Wing and Workshop Wing are provided free accommodation in the Centre.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

There are three colleges for Professional and Technical education in the Quilon District. They are the Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering, Quilon, Karmela Rani Training College, Quilon, and Mount Tabor Training College, Pathanapuram. Brief accounts of these institutions are given below.

Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering, Quilon

The Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering was founded in July 1958 by the Thangal Kunju Musaliar College Trusts. It is the first Engineering College to be set up in the private sector in Kerala State. It is located at Kilikollur, a place four miles to the east of Quilon town. The administration of the College is carried on by the Thangal Kunju Musaliar College Trusts. In 1960-61 there were 591 students on its rolls and 44 members on its teaching staff. It offers instruction for the B.Sc. (Engineering) Degree Course. The College library contains a collection of 2587 volumes. There is a hostel

attached to the college where 290 students can be accommodated.

Karmela Rani Training College, Quilon

The Karmela Rani Training College was started in August 1960 under the patronage of the Bishop of Quilon. It is located in a building attached to the Fatima Mata National College, Quilon. The management of the college is vested in the Bishop and it is exercised through a Board of Administration whose decisions will be subject to the Bishop's approval. The college imparts instruction for the B. Ed. Degree Course. In the year 1960-61 there were 120 students on its rolls and 8 members on its teaching staff. The college library contains 730 volumes. In order to accommodate the students of the college there are two hostels—one for men and the other for women.

Mount Tabor Training College, Pathanapuram

The Mount Tabor Training College, Pathanapuram was started in July 1960 under the management of His Grace the Most Rev. Mar Thoma Dionysius, the Metropolitan of Niranam in the ancient Orthodox Syrian Church. It is located at the premises of St. Stephen's High School, Pathanapuram. The college provides instruction for the B.Ed. Degree Course. In 1960-61 it had 100 students on its rolls and six members on its teaching staff. There are 960 volumes in the college library. Attached to the college there are two hostels for men and women separately.

KALASAMITHIES

Kalasamithies set up with a view to encouraging the aesthetic talents of the people function in different parts of the District. Their main functions are to conduct classes for boys and girls interested in the study of fine arts like dance and drama, to run night classes for adult education, to run libraries and reading rooms, to arrange music performances, art-shows and dramas and to devise every possible means for the promotion of arts in general. Proper encouragement is given to these *Kalasamithies* by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. In 1958-59 fifty-two *Kalasamithies*. were getting financial assistance from the Akademi. For the purpose of giving grants they were classified into three categories i.e. A. B. and C. The basic criteria accepted for the classification are the following: (1) Tradition of the institution, (2)

Nature of the activity and art-form practised ,(3) Area covered by the activities of the institution, (4) Membership, (5) Total annual income and expenditure and (6) Assets and liabilities. On the basis of this classification 6 *Kalasamithies* belonged to the A category, 14 to the B category and 32 to the C category. Brief accounts of a few *Kalasamithies* are given below.

Ananda Nritha Kalalayam, Quilon

The Ananda Nritha Kalalayam was established in June 1953 and it is located at Thevally, Quilon. The objective of the institution is to promote the *Kathakali* form of dance. In 1962 it had an income of Rs. 1,200 and an expenditure of Rs. 5,000. It received financial assistance from the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, Trichur and also from the Kendra Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. New Delhi. Till 1962, 120 students had been trained here.

National Arts Club, Tangasseri

Established on the 1st December 1956, the National Arts Club is located on the side of the Convent Road, Tangasseri. It is intended to encourage community life among children below 18 years of age and to cater to their artistic, histrionic and emotional urges. In 1961 the Club had 166 members on its rolls. In the same year its income was Rs. 724 while its expenditure was Rs. 958.

Sree Thyagaraja Smaraka Sangeetha Kalalayam, Punalur

The Sree Thyagaraja Smaraka Sangeetha Kalanilayam, Punalur, was established in 1949. It is intended to give instruction in vocal music, instrumental music, violin, miridangam etc. In 1961 it had 25 members on its rolls. The income of the association was Rs. 900 and expenditure Rs. 1,000

Kalaniketan Nrithakala Samithi, Adur

Located in Adur Town, the Kalaniketan Nritha Kala Samithi was established in 1954. In 1960 it had 20 members on its rolls. In the same year its income was Rs. 2,550 and expenditure Rs. 3,380.

Quilon Coastal Arts Club

The Quilon Coastal Arts Club was established in 1954 and it is located at Vaddy near Quilon town. In 1961-62 it had a membership of 51. Its average annual income is Rs. 3,500 and expenditure Rs. 3,500.

Kerala Peoples' Arts Club, Quilon

Among the cultural troupes of high standing in the District may be mentioned the Kerala Peoples' Arts Club, Quilon. Established in 1954, it has produced a number of popular plays of great social significance. It has toured all over India and held performances.

CULTURAL AND LITERARY PERIODICALS

The main cultural and literacy periodicals published from Quilon are the *Malayala Rajyam Weekly* and the *Janayugom Weekly*. The former started publication in 1962. One of the oldest periodicals of Kerala, it has encouraged many old and new writers in Malayalam and brought them into prominence in the literary world. Its proprietors are associated with one of the oldest publishing concerns in Kerala, i.e., the Sree Rama Vilasam Press and Book Depot, Quilon. The *Malayala Rajyam Weekly* has circulation among Malayalam speaking people all over India and its average net sale in February 1962 was 17,500 copies. The *Janayugom Weekly* was started in 1958 and it is being managed and owned by the Janayugom Publications Ltd. It has circulation both inside and outside Kerala and in February 1962 its maximum certified net sale was 36,000 copies.

Adult Literacy and Social Education

Since 1951 the Government of Travancore-Cochin State took active steps for the spread of Social Education in the State. An Adult Education Board was constituted at the State level in order to advise the Department of Education on the organisation of a good scheme of Social Education. In various parts of the State, Social Education Centres were opened under the control of Social Education Organisers who organised manifold activities including adult literacy meetings and discussions, demonstrations, Craft classes etc. By 1952 the N.E.S. Blocks were organised and the system of Adult Education was brought under their supervision. Social Education was accepted as an integral part of the activities in the N.E.S. Blocks.

Till recently in every Block there were two Social Education Organisers- one a man and the other a woman- for the promotion of Adult literacy. However, the posts of male Social Education Organisers have since been abolished and their duties are now being carried on by the Panchayat Extension Officers in

every Block. An important item in the Social Education Programme of the N.E.S. Blocks is the organisation of Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals intended to promote literacy among the youth and women in the country. These organisations conduct meetings and discussions, craft classes, *Balwadis*, demonstrations etc., in addition to undertaking house visits. They also take part in study tours, camps and exhibitions organised at the Block level. Industrial Co-operatives are being increasingly organised by the Mahila Mandals with the co-operation of the Block authorities. The Mahila Mandals in each Block organise themselves into a Block level union which meets periodically to discuss matters of common interest. There is also an integrated programme of Social Welfare which is being implemented in the Vettikavala, Konni and Chavara N.E.S. Blocks In this programme the resources of the Social Welfare Board and N.E.S. Blocks are pooled together and Welfare Centres set up according to a pattern approved by the Government of India are run under the guidance of a Project Implementing Committee.

A Night School aided by the Quilon Municipal Council is being run by a private agency in Quilon town.

LIBRARIES

The library movement in the District seems to have originated in the second decade of this century. It is seen that in 1917-18 a few libraries and reading rooms in the District were in receipt of grants from the Government. The Assistant Inspectors of English Schools were authorised to inspect them for the purpose of giving grants. The present Municipal Library at Quilon was established in 1933. In 1935-36 the Travancore Government opened rural libraries attached to the Departmental Primary Schools in fifteen centres in the then Quilon Division of the State. The Headmasters of the Primary Schools where these libraries were started were made the Honorary Librarians each of whom was assisted in his work by a local committee of three members. The librarians were paid Rs. 3 each for library work. Each library was provided with a set of 200 books and a daily newspaper and a magazine.

At present all the libraries in the District are affiliated to the Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom as its members. It may be noted that the Sanghom is a non-official organisation devoted to the organisation of the Library movement in the State on

democratic lines. In 1959-60 the total number of libraries working under the control and supervision of the Grandhasala Sanghom was 373 in this District. The relevant details regarding the working of these libraries in 1959-60 are given below.

Total Collection of Volumes	471,427
Total number of members	53,315 (45,952 men and 7363 women)
Total Book issue	843,745
Total number of visitors	4,724,616 men and 236,822 women
Total income	Rs. 1,49,728
Amount spent for periodicals	Rs. 31,880
Total amount received from N. E. S. Blocks	Rs. 1,436
Grants from the Municipality	Rs. 500
Grants from Panchayats	Rs. 10,390

The most important library in the District is the Municipal Library at Quilon. A short account of this institution is given below.

Municipal Libraray and Reading Room, Quilon

The Municipal Library and Reading Room was established in 1933 in a rented building at Anandavalleeswaram, Quilon In 1942 it was shifted to the present location near the Quilon Collectorate. The administration of the library is vested with the Quilon Municipal Council with the Municipal Commissioner as the *ex-officio* Secretary. In 1960-61 it had a total stock of 9197 volumes of which 2781 were English books, 5107 Malayalam books, 553 Hindi books and 756 Tamil books. Besides the library subscribed for 41 periodicals. In the same year the total number of books issued from the library was 19869 and the total number of members on the rolls was 330. Attached to the Municipal Library there is also a Distributing Library consisting of 5000 books.

Museums, Botanical Gardens etc.

There are no museums, botanical and Zoological gardens etc., in this District.

APPENDIX—I

Primary Schools in Quilon District (1960-61)

Name of the Sub-District	Type of School	No. of Schools		No. of pupils		No. of teachers	
		Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Quilon	Lower Primary	11	31	14557	10399	140	256
	Upper Primary	6	9	8796	6925	188	191
Kundara	Lower Primary	30	22	9376	8229	314	188
	Upper Primary	..	14	2391	1545	164	59
Chathannoor	Lower Primary	25	21	10371	9120	251	207
	Upper Primary	7	11	6192	5265	215	187
Kottarakara	Lower Primary	23	25	8681	8301	233	130
	Upper Primary	3	11	2070	2082	144	63
Kulakada	Lower Primary	36	13	8160	7842	201	124
	Upper Primary	3	10	2642	1994	126	66
Punalur	Lower Primary	38	9	10730	9842	201	124
	Upper Primary	3	11	4224	3350	118	84
Chadayamangalam	Lower Primary	26	20	12351	11866	344	152
	Upper Primary	3	13	4041	3123	181	65
Karunagapally	Lower Primary	44	26	16474	12536	336	358
	Upper Primary	8	12	7449	5774	218	72
Sasthamcotta	Lower Primary	40	6	9836	8849	246	117
	Upper Primary	2	8	1108	832	72	33
Adur	Lower Primary	34	6	8436	7953	183	135
	Upper Primary	4	8	1765	1457	97	51
Pathanamthitta	Lower Primary	29	29	10628	10051	251	218
	Upper Primary	3	10	2090	1098	105	68
Kozhencherry	Lower Primary	11	26	4788	4754	74	131
	Upper Primary	5	11	3079	3024	122	124
Ranni	Lower Primary	20	34	8745	8671	164	180
	Upper Primary	3	11	3009	2770	117	80
Total	Lower Primary	367	268	133133	118413	2932	2349
	Upper Primary	50	139	48856	39239	1867	1134

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Early History

Ayurveda was the most popular system of medicine that prevailed in the Quilon District before the introduction of the western system. Ayurveda High Schools receiving a grant of Rs. 30 each per mensem were functioning at Quilon and Sadanandapuram early in this century. They served as feeders to the Ayurveda College at Trivandrum and were under the supervision and control of the Principal of that College. Since 1895 a regular system of grant-in-aid to qualified *Vaidyans* has been in vogue.

In the field of Allopathy the first dispensary was opened at Quilon in the first half of the nineteenth century. It offered free medical aid and was under the supervision of a military medical officer. Indian army medical officers working in Quilon during the early part of this century reported results of studies in Shertallai and neighbouring coastal areas on the mosquito transmission of filariasis. In 1870-71 a new hospital was constructed at Quilon with accommodation for in-patients. During the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal Maharaja (1885-1924) a system of grant-in-aid to private medical institutions was begun. In 1960 the Victoria Hospital, an institution for women and children, was separated from the District Hospital at Quilon. The Government took care to see that proper medical aid was made available to all classes of people. Free medical service and free supply of medicines were the keynote of the policy of the administration while a regular system of grant-in-aid promoted the activities of private agencies.

Vital Statistics

The registration of vital statistics is compulsory throughout the District. It is done by the staff of the Health Services Department in rural areas and by the Municipality in the Quilon town. It is the function of the Department of Statistics to compile the data. A statement of births, deaths, infant deaths, still births, maternal deaths and their rates for Quilon

District for the years 1959, 1960 and 1961 is given in the Table on the next page. As elsewhere, registration of vital statistics is defective in Quilon District also, and both births and deaths as shown in the registers are much below the actual figures.

According to the Demographic Research Centre of the Department of Statistics the trend in birth rates is decreasing in recent years. Though no definite causes for this decreasing trend can be specified, the family planning activities may have some bearing on this. Improvement in health facilities, environmental sanitation and the like have lessened the toll of death. Nevertheless, the death rate still shows an increasing trend. This may be due either to the increase in registration or to the insufficiency of health programmes for the common man. It is also seen that the months of May and June stand out conspicuous for births while July and August are the months of maximum mortality.

CHIEF DISEASES OF THE DISTRICT

The chief causes of morbidity and mortality, taking into consideration the figures available for 1960-61, in respect of all the medical institutions of the District are furnished in the statement given at Appendix I to this Chapter. From the statistics furnished in the statement it may be seen that Anaemia and Malnutrition, Gastric and Intestinal disorders, diseases of the respiratory system, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, etc. are the common diseases of the District. It may be observed that the low economic status of the majority of the people, lack of knowledge of proper diets, poor environmental hygiene, etc. are the majority contributory causes of the diseases.

Small Pox and Vaccination

Even though Small Pox has been a frequent scourge in the District, there were only 14 attacks and 6 deaths in 1960-61. Small pox vaccination is now compulsory. The total number of vaccinations conducted in the District excluding Quilon town during the year was 92,170 Primary and 2,06,592 Re-vaccination. On verification 91% of the Primary Vaccinations and 75.2% of the Re-vaccination were found successful. The vaccination work is attended to by Health Assistants during their domiciliary visits. The table on page 608 shows the details of the vaccination work done by the Health Assistants in the District during the year 1960-61.

TABLE I

Vital statistics for Quilon District (1959-1961)

Quilon District		*Births*		*Deaths*		*Infant Deaths*		*Still Births*		*Maternal Deaths*	
		No.	*Rate*	*No.*	*Rate*	*No.*	*Rate*	*No.*	*Rate**	*No.*	*Rate**
1959—Total	..	47032	27.54	8986	5.26	1260	26.79	625	13.11	73	1.53
Rural	..	41490	25.49	8115	4.98	1164	28.05	275	6.58	71	11.70
Urban	..	5542	69.28	871	10.89	96	17.32	350	59.40	2	.34
1960—Total	..	43405	24.96	9395	5.40	1137	26.20	708	16.05	88	1.99
Rural	..	38588	23.27	8718	5.26	1086	28.14	395	10.13	80	2.05
Urban	..	4817	59.47	677	8.36	51	10.59	313	61.01	8	1.56
1961—Total	..	48980	25.05	10864	5.55	1429	29.17	372	N.A.	16	N.A.
Rural	..	42705	22.91	9991	5.36	1346	31.52	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Urban	..	6275	68.21	873	9.49	83	13.23	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

* The rates are per thousand deaths/births.

Statement of Vaccination work 1960-61.

Name of Health Circle	No. of Vaccinations			Successful		
	Primary & Secondary	Re-Vaccination	Total	Pri. vaccination	Re-vaccination	Total
1. Quilon	14,318	53,697	68,015	11,476	26,238	37,714
2. Kottarakara	18,242	38,241	56,483	15,357	24,989	40,346
3. Punalur	10,615	18,605	29,221	8,365	13,461	21,826
4. Adur	10,067	16,543	26,610	10,067	14,919	24,986
5. Pathanamthitta	25,011	33,372	58,383	24,325	33,112	57,437
6. Karunagapally	13,917	45,133	59,050	12,837	41,916	54,753

Anaemia and Malnutrition

Morbidity reports from hospitals in the District show large number of cases of "Anaemia". This condition is to some extent the result of food deficiencies, intestinal parasites and malaria. Hook-worm infection is the chief cause. The low economic status of the majority of the people, lack of knowledge regarding proper diets, and insanitation are also contributory causes. Anaemia is one of the important factors affecting the health of expectant mothers.

Gastric and intestinal disorders

Habits such as the intake of highly spiced foods, consumption of contaminated vegetables, meat and other articles of food and drinking of impure water are the major factors favourable to the development of gastric and intestinal disorders.

Diseases of the respiratory system

The morbidity figures show that incidence of respiratory diseases in the District is high even though mortality figures from the institutions are few.

Typhoid

This is of frequent occurrence all over the District in a sporadic form mostly all the year round. T.A.B. vaccine for prophylatic inoculation against typhoid has been made available in all Government Hospitals and Dispensaries. The Public Health field staff also give preventive inoculation. A total number of 2,861 T A.B. inoculations were given by them in the District during 1960-61. Apart from anti-Typhoid inoculation, disinfection of infected houses and articles, chlorination of drinking water sources and isolation of

patients are also being attended to by the field staff as part of the chief control measures adopted against the disease.

Tuberculosis

The control of Tuberculosis has always received priority among the health schemes of the Government. The present policy is for shifting the emphasis from institutional care to public health and control measures. But it is also proposed to set up as many clinics and isolation wards as possible, attached to existing institutions. Even at this stage, a number of cases which require hospitalisation are not admitted for want of accommodation. A second round of B.C.G. vaccination in the District is already over and the third round is going on. This is being done with the co-operation of the UNICEF. There is sign of decline in the mortality rate, but the incidence rate more or less remains the same.

Leprosy

The coastal belt of the District is endemic to this disease. It is proposed to control and prevent Leprosy through the S.E.T. (Survey, Education and Treatment) Centres opened in the endemic pockets especially. There are nine S.E.T. Centres in the District attached to existing institutions. There is special convenience and accommodation for in-patient treatment too at these centres. The Centres in the District are at Kottarakara, Kundara, Mayyanad, Chavara, Mynagapally, Karunagapally, Vallikkavu, Sooranad and Sasthamcotta.

Anti-malaria measures

The regions where malaria was endemic are confined to the eastern hilly parts of the district viz. Pathanamthitta, Pathanapuram and Kottarakara Taluks. The coastal areas are known to be completely free from malaria. The remaining intermediary tracts of the District had only low malarial incidence of varying degrees. Though the incidence of malaria did not ordinarily show much variation, there were occasional outbreaks affecting a very large number of people at a time and spreading to adjacent areas in an epidemic form under favourable climatic conditions. The last epidemic outbreak was during 1947 when Pathanamthitta and Pathanapuram Taluks were affected and the epidemic also spread to the eastern parts of Kunnathur and Kottarakara taluks. Measures were taken to treat the patients through existing Government medical institutions. During the period of the prevalence of

the epidemic temporary Malaria Dispensaries were started and special anti-malarial staff were also posted to do mass drug distribution. General relief measures were also arranged. With the availability of D.D.T. in sufficient quantities after the Second World War D.D.T. spraying of all structures, dwelling houses as well as cattle sheds was started as a routine measure from 1948 onwards in highly malarial areas. As a result colonisation and food production in vast areas in the malarial forest regions were made possible. Spraying was done in two rounds once in three months during the period from November to April to cover the entire transmission season which is taken to be from January to June in this State. The National Malaria Control Programme came into force during 1953 and according to it the activities were expanded and all the known malarious areas of high incidence in endemic areas were brought under control operation. Due to the adoption of control measures for 4 or 5 continuous years malaria was brought to a very low level. For various technical and other reasons and also considering the feasibility of achieving eradication of Malaria in the whole country, the National Malaria Eradication Programme was launched and it came into operation in 1958. In this programme not only the known malarious areas but the entire country had been brought under it taking all areas to be potentially capable for the spread of malaria. It implies the reduction of parasite reservoir in human population to such a negligible degree that once it has been achieved there is no danger of resumption of local transmission. Complete spraying of all dwelling houses and cattle sheds consecutively at least for 2 or 3 years is expected to reduce the reservoir to such a low level. The programme also provides for the few residual cases in the community being searched out and their blood cleared of the parasites by radical treatment with new potent anti-malarial drugs. The latter activity is termed as Surveillance. For this Surveillance Workers have been appointed at the rate of 1 for every 10,000 persons. They are to visit all houses in their area once a fortnight to enquire about fever cases, and to take blood smears from all known fever cases and send it for examination in the laboratory at the malaria unit headquarters. All fever cases are also presumed to be malaria pending confirmation by examination in the laboratory and a single dose presumptive treatment by an anti-malarial drug is given then and there. If on blood examination any person

is seen to have malarial parasites he is traced and radical treatment for 5 days given. Surveillance has been introduced during the third year of spraying under National Malaria Eradication Programme in the State from December 1960 and is to be continued for 1 year after withdrawal of spraying in the less malarious or Hypo Endemic Malaria Units and after 3 years in the highly malarious or endemic areas. It is also being carried out in all medical institutions both private and Government. The programme in a nutshell is on the one hand an attack on vector mosquitoes which transmit the disease from the malaria infected persons to other healthy people, and on the other an attack on the parasites in the body of the persons who have been already infected with the disease. A summary of data of Survelliance activities carried out so far under National Malaria Eradication Programme in this District is given below.

Statement of Activities under the National Malaria Eradication Programme

I ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE WORK

Year	*Population*	*Houses visited*	*Fever cases detected*	*Slides taken*	*No. of positives*
1960-61	1769567	310849	58412	57744	14

II PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

Year	*No. of Institutions*	*Smears collected*	*No. of positives*
1960-61	40	3501	1

Filariasis Control

The filarial region of the district is mostly confined to the coastal areas in the west. Besides the coastal belt there are also few pockets of filarial infection in the hilly tracts of Kottarakara and Pathanapuram Taluks. The affected areas are Quilon town in Quilon taluk and the entire Karunagapally Taluk. There are two types of filarial infection. One is seen mostly in urban areas and is spread by a particular species of mosquito, which breeds in highly polluted waters in cess pools and drains commonly found in congested areas of towns. This is called Bancroftian variety. The other type is mostly found in rural areas and spread by Mansonioides mosquitoes which breed in ponds containing pistia plants. This is called the Malayian variety. General mosquito control measures which are not only aimed at reducing mosquito nuisance but also the spread of filariasis have been in operation in Quilon Municipality since 1936. The main activity is to treat all water collections favouring breeding of mosquitoes by applying crude oil once a week. The National Filariasis

Control Programme (N.F.C.P.) came into operation during 1957 and one Filariasis Control Unit was started with headquarters at Quilon comprising of Quilon town, Karunagapally and surroundings and other places in Alleppey District covering a population of about 3 lakhs. As per this programme the mosquito control measures were intensified in Quilon town by a joint endeavour of both the Municipality and the Health Services Department and the field staff for the work was augmented. (In Karunagapally town and suburbs also both pistia clearance and oiling of breeding places were started as control measures against filariasis). Another activity under this programme was mass treatment of people by a drug called Hetrazan to reduce the reservoir of infection among the population. This was carried out in 1958 in Quilon town with great success. A third activity was spraying of houses with insecticides like B.H.C. once a year in the urban areas and thrice in rural areas. The last two activities have since been abandoned as routine filaria control measures for various technical reasons and the emphasis is now on larval control and minor sanitary engineering for removing permanently conditions favouring stagnation of water and breeding of mosquitoes. The results of check-up surveys since the inception of N.F.C.P. show diminishing trend in fresh infections.

Organisation of the Health Services Department

The District Medical Officer of Health is the chief executive of the Health Services Department in the District. He is in charge of the Medical and Public Health wings. The Hospitals and Dispensaries under the control of the District Medical Officer are dealt with separately. He is assisted by the Assistant District Medical Officer (H) in matters pertaining particularly to public health. The Assistant District Medical Officer in his turn is assisted by a Public Health Organiser who is a senior Health Inspector.

For the registration of births and deaths there are six Taluk Health Inspectors, otherwise known as Taluk Registrars of Births and Deaths. They are under the direct control of the District Medical Officer. Moreover, there are Health Inspectors attached to the Primary Health Centres. The Medical Officers of the Primary Health Centres exercise control over them.

The Health Inspectors who were appointed in the N.E.S. Blocks prior to the opening of Primary Health Centres

are at present functioning as Health Extension Officers of the Blocks. Administrative and financial control over them is exercised by the Block Development Officers.

All categories of Health Inspectors also act as Food Inspectors within their jurisdictions.

There are 80 Health Assistants in the District. The Taluk-wise distribution of Health Assistants' Offices which also function as offices of the Registrars of Births and Deaths is given below:

Taluk.		*No. of Offices.*
Quilon	..	15
Kottarakara	..	14
Pathanapuram	..	11
Pathanamthitta	..	16
Kunnathur	..	10
Karunagapally	..	14

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The Taluk-wise distribution of Medical and Public Health institutions in Quilon District is given below:

Quilon.

1. District Hospital, Quilon.
2. Victoria Hospital (W & C), Quilon.
3. Government Dispensary, Kundara.
4. Do. Perumon.
5. Do. Paripally.
6. Primary Health Centre, Mayyanad.

Kottarakara.

1. Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Kottarakara.
2. T. B. Clinic, Kottarakara.
3. Government Dispensary, Chadayamangalam.
4. Primary Health Centre, Velinallur.
5. Do. Kadakkal.
6. Primary Health Centre, Nedumankavu.

Pathanapuram.

1. Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Punalur.
2. Government Dispensary, Kulathupuzha.
3. Do. Pattazhi.
4. Primary Health Centre, Pathanapuram.
5. Bi-Weekly Dispensary, Thenmala.

Pathanamthitta.

1. Government Hospital, Kozhencherry.
2. T. B. Clinic & Seal Ward, Kozhencherry.
3. Government Dispensary, Elanthur.
4. Do. Chenneerkara.
5. Do. Pathanamthitta.
6. Do. Kadambanitta.
7. Do. Ranni-Perunad.
8. Do. Vechuchira.
9. Primary Health Centre, Ranni.
10. Do. Konni.
11. Temporary Malaria Dispensary, Naduvathumuzhi.
12. Itinerant Dispensary, Pathanamthitta.

Kunnathur.

1. Taluk-Headquarters Hospital, Adur.
2. Government Dispensary, Chandanapally.
3. Do. Sasthamcotta.
4. Do. Kadambanad.
5. Primary Health Centre, Sooranad.
6. Temporary Malaria Dispensary, Koodal.

Karunagapally.

1. Secondary Health Centre, Karunagapally.
2. T. B. Clinic, Karunagapally.
3. Government Dispensary, Vallikkavu.
4. Primary Health Centre, Chavara.
5. Primary Health Centre, Mynagapally.
6. Do. Neendakara, run by the Indo-Norwegian Project.

Brief accounts of the most important hospitals and dispensaries in the district are given below:

District Hospital, Quilon

This Hospital which has a bed strength of 380 is housed in a four-storied building constructed during the Second Five Year Plan period. A Dental Clinic and a V. D. Clinic under a Honorary Dental Surgeon and a V. D. and Skin Specialist respectively are functioning here. A Blood Bank donated by the Rotary Club is also attached to the Hospital. An Opthalmic Department, an E. N. T. Department, an Obstetrics and a Gynaecology Department, a Paediatric Unit and an X'ray Unit are also functioning. The District Medical Officer of Health is the Superintendent of the District Hospital.

Of late a Public Health and Clinical Laboratory has been opened in the District Hospital premises under the India-Norwegian aid scheme. A T.B. Diagnostic Centre with facilities for 40 observation beds has also been constructed in the close proximity of the District Hospital under the same aid scheme.

There is a Small-pox Isolation Hospital at Asramam functioning under the control of the District Hospital and this is the only one of its kind in the entire District.

Victoria Hospital, Quilon

One of the pioneer medical institutions in Quilon and the only Women and Children's Hospital in the District, this Hospital has a sanctioned bed strength of 104. A teaching unit for Auxiliary-Midwifery training is attached to it. A Family Planning Clinic has also been set up here. The construction of a power-laundry building is nearing completion in the premises of the institution. This is intended for both the District and Victoria Hospitals and is also a scheme sponsored under the Indo-Norwegian aid programme.

T. B. Clinics

The T.B. Clinic at Karunagapally started functioning from March 1960. The construction of building for accommodating 50 isolation beds attached to the clinic is under way. There are facilities for screening and X'ray in the institution. The Clinics at Kozhencherry and Kottarakara started functioning in 1962. A T.B. seal-ward of 12 beds and a ward of 24 beds are attached to the Clinics at Kozhencherry and Kottarakara respectively. Facilities for proper diagnosis like screening and X'ray have yet to be provided in these two Clinics. Only out-patient treatment is being conducted in them at present The construction of a building for a general dispensary with 13 beds, 12 T.B. Isolation beds for women and 50 T.B. Isolation beds for men at Adichanallur will be taken up shortly.

T.B. Diagnostic Centre, Quilon

Opened in August 1963 the T.B. Diagnostic Centre is situated near the District Hospital, Quilon. It has on its staff two Assistant Surgeons, a T.B. Health Visitor, a Laboratory Technician, a Radiographer, three nurses, a compounder and an X-ray attender. The B.C.G. team of the Centre consists of a team leader and six B.C.G. technicians. The total bed strength of the institution is 40.

The Centre has been constructed with Indo-Norwegian aid. A. T.B. Specialist of the Indo-Norwegian Project visits the

institution daily. In-patients are confined here only for three days and they are then discharged after proper diagnosis.

Other Medical Institutions

The Itinerant Dispensary at Pathanamthitta for the treatment of Yaws is functioning as part of the Government Dispensary, Pathanamthitta.

Three more new Primary Health Centres which have been sanctioned are expected to start functioning shortly at Kulakada (Poovathur) in Stage I Block, Vettikavala, at Anchalummud in Stage I Block, Anchalummud and at Thekkumbhagam in Stage I Block, Chavara.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Among the chief private hospitals and nursing homes in the District are the L.M.S. Boy's Brigade Hospital, Kundara, the Holy Cross Hospital, Kottiyam, the Rama Rao Hospital, Nedumgolam, Dr. Benzigar Memorial Hospital, Quilon and the Quilon Nursing Home, Quilon. The available information on some of these institutions is given below.

L.M.S. Hospital, Kundara

Medical work in Kundara was started as a branch of the South Travancore Medical Mission (S.T.M.M) Neyyur under the London Missionary Society about 1910. The present hospital built in 1934 was raised largely from funds subscribed by the Boy's Brigade in the Congregational Churches of England. Subsequently the work came under the Church of South India and since 1959 it is controlled by the South Kerala Diocese

The hospital is situated on the Kundara-Kottiyam Road one furlong from its junction with the Quilon-Shencottah road. There are 120 beds (5 general wards and 28 private rooms), operation theatre, 100 M.A. diagnostic x-ray equipment, and Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives Training School with about 20 students.

The staff of the Hospital has 3 doctors, 11 nurses, 5 midwives, 2 technicians, 2 compounders, 4 clerks and 18 other workers. Statistics of the working of the Hospital for 1961-62 are given below:

Description.	*Number.*
In-patients	4,061
Out-patients new	33,163
Out-patients total attendance	50,660
Maternity deliveries	616
Operations	2,047

Holy Cross Hospital, Kottiyam

The Holy Cross Hospital, Kottiyam, was established in May 1953 with Dr. Roggendorf, a German as the Medical Officer in charge. To start with, it had a bed strength of 20. Some months later a temporary shed was erected to accommodate the increasing number of patients. In 1955 work on the first floor of the present hospital building (North wing) was started and in 1957 the second floor (North Wing) was completed. In 1962-63 the central block which now houses the laboratory, X-ray plant, and operation theatre was completed.

In 1963 the staff of the hospital consisted of 5 Doctors, 22 Nursing Sisters, 4 qualified Sister Tutors, 2 Compounders, 2 Laboratory technicians and 1 X ray Technician. The bed strength was 170. In 1962-63 the total number of in-patients treated in the Hospital was 6,400 and out-patients 16,600.

Attached to the Hospital there is a School of Nursing which offers courses of studies in Auxiliary Nursing, General Nursing and Midwifery. Hostel facilities are available for 100 students. For the rural training of auxiliary nurses and midwives a Health Centre has been opened at Adur.

Benzigar Hospital, Quilon

The Benzigar Hospital was started in 1948 in memory of the late Catholic Bishop, Rev. Benziger. It is situated in a 3 acre plot near the P.W.D. Office on the Beach Road. It has 13 cottages intended mostly for ladies. The Hospital has a bed strength of 40, but arrangements have been made for putting up a 100 bed general hospital. The Maternity and Operation Room of the new general hospital which is in the offing was completed and formally opened by Dr. Sushila Nayyar, Union Minister for Health, on 6th February 1963. The staff of the hospital consists at present of two doctors, 6 nurses, 1 laboratory technician, 1 compounder, 1 radiologist-cum-clerk, 2 warders and 3 servants. This Hospital is also equipped with a laboratory and X-ray services. The out-patient ward caters to the poor and medicines, injections, dressings, etc., are given here free of charge. The number of patients treated in the out-patient ward in 1962 came to 4,058 and that in the in-patient ward to 564.

The Quilon Nursing Home

Started in November 1946 near Kadappakada junction on the Quilon-Kottarakara road the Quilon Nursing Home is staffed by a doctor, a compounder and two assistants and has three

beds. The total number of patients treated during the year 1962 was 3,994.

Indigenous Hospitals and Dispensaries

The Ayurvedic institutions in the District are under the direct control of the District Indigenous Medical Officer, Quilon. There are five institutions each in the Quilon, Karunagapally, and Kottarakara Taluks, four in Pathanamthitta Taluk, three in Pathanapuram and two in Kunnathur. The detailed list of the institutions in the District with particulars of location, bed strength, staff structure etc. is given at Appendix III.

The grant-in-aid *Vaidyasalas* in the District are located at Quilon town (Nos. 2), Perinad, Mayyanad, Ashtamudi, East Kallada, Kottiyam, Kundara (Nos. 2), Munroe Island, Mukathala, Nedumpanam, Neendakara, Paripally, South Paravur (Nos. 2), Sakthikulangara, Tangasseri, Karicode, (all in Quilon Taluk), Anchal, Punalur (Nos. 2), Pathanapuram, Kunnicode, Pattazhi (all in Pathanapuram Taluk), Changankulangara, Chavara, Chavara South, Koilthottam, Azheekal, Oachira, Patanayarkulangara, Puthupally, Thazhava, Thevalakara, Vallikara, Pandarathuruthi (all in Karunagapally Taluk), Ezhukone, Kottarakara, Kadakkal, Velinallur, Ummanur, Chithra, Chadayamangalam (Kottarakara Taluk), Elanthur, Konni, Mylapra, Nallanikunnu, Naranganam, Omallur, Pathanamthitta, Perunil, Mannarkulanji, Chemkole (all in Pathanamthitta Taluk). Kadampanad, Kothapuram and Paracode ((Kunnathur Taluk).

The *Vaidyasalas* at Konni Omallur, Oachira, Punalur (one only), Kundara (one only), Karicode, Nedumpana and East Kallada are Visha *Vaidyasalas* (Toxicological Dispensaries).

The Table given at Appendix IV gives a Taluk-war distribution of the Ayurvedic Institutions (both government and grant-in-aid) in the District.

Maternity and Child Welfare

A Taluk-wise distribution of Maternity and Child Health Centres is given below:

Taluk	*Mid-wifery Centres*	*Sub-Centres of P.H. Centres*	*M.C.H. Centres under Plan Schemes*	*Total*
Quilon	6	2	4	12
Kottarakara	9	7	1	17
Pathanapuram	2	3	3	8
Pathanamthitta	6	6	4	16
Kunnathur	4	2	4	10
Karunagapally	7	7	..	14

There are three other M.C.H. Centres in the Coastal area of Karunagappally Taluk under the Mining Area Welfare Board.

In addition to the above a few Panchayats are having midwifery centres meeting the expenditure from their funds. The Municipality of Quilon is also running four M.C.H. Centres.

Family Planning

There are 15 Family Planning Centres in this District attached to the following institutions:—1. Secondary Health Centre, Karunagapally, 2. Primary Health Centre, Chavara, 3. Primary Health Centre, Indo-Norwegian Project, Neendakara, 4. Victoria Hospital, Quilon, 5. Primary Health Centre, Anchalummud, 6. Primary Health Centre, Mayyanad, 7. Primary Health Centre, Nedumankavu, 8. Primary Health Centre, Kadakkal, 9. Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Kottarakara, 10. Government Hospital, Punalur, 11. Primary Health Centre, Pathanapuram, 12. Primary Health Centre, Konni, 13. Government Hospital Kozhencherry, 14. Government Hospital, Adur, and 15. Primary Health Centre, Sooranad.

Each Centre has two Honorary Social Workers and a Health Visitor. They educate the public in family planning, family budgeting, etc. visiting houses within their jurisdiction and talking to groups and individuals about the need for family planning. Persons who are in need of help and guidance in the matter are advised to visit the clinic. The Medical Officers supervise their work and render free services in the matter of family planning. They examine the patients and explain the methods for limiting the size of the family and impart instructions on the use of contraceptives. Persons who have got more than three children and do not want any more are advised to undergo sterilisation operation.

Ten more centres having two social workers each have started functioning in the following Panchayats. They are the following.

1. Kilikollur 2. Mulavana 3. Munroe Island	Quilon Taluk
4. Ezhukone 5. Velinallur	Kottarakara Taluk
6. Pattazhi 7. Vilakudi	Pathanapuram Taluk
8. Kadambanad	.. Kunnathur Taluk
9. Pathanamthitta 10. Ranni	Pathanamthitta Taluk.

The Medical Officer of the nearest institution exercises administrative control over the staff of these centres and guides them in their work. Sterilisation facilities are being provided generally in institutions having two or more Medical Officers with adequate facilities for the purpose. The following institutions are recognised for the purpose in the Dintrict:—1. District Hospital, Quilon, 2. Victoria Hospital, Quilon, 3. Government Hospital, Kottarakara, 4. Government Hospital, Punalur, and 5. Government Hospital, Kozhencherry.

There is a Regional Family Planning Officer with headquarters at Quilon to look after the activities connected with family planning. There are six Family Planning Clinics run by voluntary organisations in the District. Two centres, one at Quilon and the other at Paravur, are run by the Kasturba Memorial Nursing Home, Quilon. The Bharat Sevak Samaj runs a centre each at Chathannur and Konni. The other two Clinics are located at Vallikizh and Elangamangalam.

There is a District Family Planning Committee with the Collector as the Chairman, the District and Assistant Medical Officers of Health as ex-officio members, and the President of the local branch of the Indian Medical Association and three other non-officials as members to step up the tempo of the family planning drive in the District. Local Committees have also been formed in all the places where Family Planning Clinics are functioning and the members of these committees persuade the local people to seek and utilise fully the services provided at the Centres.

During the year 1959-60 a Survey on Attitude to Family Planning was conducted in Quilon town by the Demographic Research Centre of the Statistics Department. The findings of the Survey are given in the table at Appendix V.

Nutrition

A massive applied nutrition programme with which are associated the UNICEF, FAO and WHO was inaugurated in Kottarakara on November 14, 1963, the Children's Day which coincided with the birthday of Prime Minister Nehru. Kottarakara is among the five Blocks in the State selected for the implementation of the programme to start with. The Extension Training Centre at Kottarakara is actively associated with the project. In the first year of the three-year programme 20 per cent of villages in the Block will be taken up, 40 per cent in the second year and the rest in 1965-66 when all aspects of the programme will be in full swing. The object is to make

the free feeding programme available to 25 expectant mothers and 50 school children for every 1,000 population. The feeding would be arranged through Mahila Samajams and Panchayats.

There would be co-ordinating committees at the State and Block levels to assess the results of the programme from time to time. A Project Nutrition Officer under the Health Services Department assisted by two Health Inspectors will be in charge of all the nutritional activities. The programme is a three-pronged attempt at achieving increased production of nutrient foods like milk, fish, fruits and vegetables, distributing part of it to more deserving sections and raising nutritional standards through propaganda. In pursuance of these objectives the Poultry Farm in the District is to be upgraded. Assistance will be provided by UNICEF in the form of equipments to selected fishermen or their co-operatives. Certain school gardens, kitchen gardens and vegetable and fruit farms would be selected for growing improved varieties. A dairy production and utilisation centre is also to be established at Kottarakara.

Health Education

A Regional Health Education Unit under a Regional Health Education Officer is functioning at Quilon. Voluntary organisations and the general public are associated with all the health education activities of this Unit. Materials such as wall posters, pamphlets, leaflets, cinema slides, films etc. are the media used in the campaign organised for educating the public on various aspects of public health, sanitation and cleanliness. The Health Education wing of the Health Services Department participated in the All India Exhibition held at Quilon in 1961. It also takes part in the exhibitions organised by the N.E.S. Blocks. The programmes connected with the celebration of such national functions as the National Cleanliness Day, Children's Day, Family Planning Day, Anti-Leprosy Day, World Health Day, etc. are directed and coordinated by the Department.

Slum Clearance

Slum clearance work is confined to the Quilon Municipal area. The works in this direction started by the Quilon Municipality during the Second Five Year Plan period at a total cost of Rs. 4 lakhs are in progress at Moothakara and Thamarathottam slums. Under the scheme housing facilities for 263 slum families, i.e., 227 under open plot system and 36 under tenement system, would be provided.

PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY

Urban Water Supply

Quilon town which has a population of nearly a lakh has had to depend for its water needs on wells dug in the compounds of almost every house. During the summer season acute scarcity of water is felt while even the water available in wells is not hygienically pure in most cases. The idea of a protected water supply had been under consideration of the Government for a long time, but it did not take any tangible shape for several reasons. The Indo-Norwegian Foundation, with the support of the United Nations Organisation and the Government of India, had in the meantime selected the Neendakara and the Puthenthura semi-urban areas of Quilon as their scene of activity, mainly confined to developing the fishing industry. The question of supplying fresh water to the project area came up for consideration as part of their scheme and the Government also took a keen interest in it. The Indo-Norwegian Foundation agreed to supply materials worth about Rs. 40 lakhs. The Quilon Water Supply scheme was accordingly taken up by the Government. Its first stage was inaugurated on 6th February, 1963. The town of Quilon and the villages of Panmana, Chavara, Karunagapally, Neendakara and Sakthikulangara covered by the Indo-Norwegian Project come under the periphery of this scheme. The project would cost about Rs. 139 lakhs. Its salient features are given below.

The source of water supply is the fresh water lake at Sasthamcotta covering an area of about 1.44 sq. miles with a maximum depth of about 47 ft. It is surrounded by hills on the three sides and by an earthen bund about a mile long in the eastern side. With the raising of the bund by 5 ft. the maximum capacity of the lake at present is 950 million cft. The lake water is pumped upto the Filtration plant erected on an elevation on the northern shore by the side of the Chavara-Adur road. The pumping units and the Diesel Generator were supplied by the Indo-Norwegian Foundation. The Filters at Sasthamcotta are meant for working round the clock. The filtered water is sterilised by chlorine. The filtered and sterilised water will then be conveyed through 28″ diameter "Premo" prestressed concrete pipe to Quilon town by gravity flow. The water, when it reaches Quilon town from Sasthamcotta by gravity, loses much of its head and is therefore pumped to the reservoirs with the help of a booster pumping station.

There are altogether three reservoirs located at Anandavalleeswaram, Cantonment and near the District Hospital. The reservoirs are circular overhead tanks each with a capacity of 250,000 gallons (1,100,000 litres). The reservoir at Anandavalleeswaram is on a staging of 50′ height and the other two are on stagings of 42′ 6″ height. The distribution lines vary from 12″ to 4″ diameter. The whole distribution is designed in such a way as to give a terminal pressure of 30′. The town has been divided into three zones for the purpose of distribution, each zone to be served by a reservoir. The total length of the distribution lines will be about 60 miles, interlinked and provided with necessary control valves. The scheme does not envisage provision of hydrants for fire protection service. 600 street fountains will be provided to serve the town. When the final stage of the Project is completed protected water would be supplied to a two lakh population (20 gallons of water per head).

Rural Water Supply

Several water supply schemes to benefit rural areas have been executed by the Public Health Engineering Department under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme. The scheme is to benefit single villages or groups of villages having a total population not exceeding 5,000 and it is also laid down that the per capita cost should not exceed Rs. 30. While the Government bears the cost of investigation as well as the capital cost of these schemes, the maintenance of the works so executed is done by the local Panchayats. The following are the schemes already completed.

1. Water Supply to Chavara South and North.
2. Water Supply to Kottiyam.
3. Water Supply to Trikadavur.
4. Water Supply to Oachira.
5. Flow control and Distribution at Ayiramthengu Jetty.

The schemes for supply of water to Munro Island, Azheekal, Azheekal North and Panmana are under execution, and those to Punalur and Paravur will soon be taken up.

The main source of rural water supply has been tube-wells, about forty of which have already been sunk in the District.

In those areas not covered by any intensive development schemes operated under the Five Year Plans, protected water supply is made available under the Local Development Works Scheme, the execution of which is under the control and supervision of the District Collector. 50% of the cost of the L.D.

Scheme is borne by the Central Government and the rest of the cost is shared by the State Government, Panchayats and beneficiaries. About 30 Panchayats in Quilon have been benefited by this scheme. Sinking of draw wells is the main feature of the water supply work under the L.D. Scheme.

Urban Drainage and Sanitation

Work would soon start for a comprehensive drainage network in the Quilon town with the commissioning of the Quilon Water Supply. Already the Distribution Sub-Division under the Public Health Division Quilon has *inter alia* assumed the task of construction of a Night-soil treatment plant at Kureepuzha. The estimated cost of this plant is Rs. 6,40,000 and 50% of the cost will be borne by the Quilon Municipality. The plant will consist of digestion and mixing tanks and twenty sludge drying beds.

There are hardly any facilities in the town for drainage and disposal of storm water. The haphazard growth of the town with the concomitant rise of buildings without any planning has given rise to the formation of stagnant pools following the onset of the rainy season. Due to lack of funds the Municipality is in a position to make only temporary arrangements for the disposal of storm water.

In the field of urban sanitation there are 15 public latrines including two public comfort stations. There are about 6,000 houses brought under scavenging service in Quilon town. Night-soil and street sweepings are daily removed to the night soil depot by lorries for conversion into manure. Thirty three miles of road are swept daily and 25 miles of road periodically. The Municipality renders all sanitary convenience to all local fairs and festivals celebrated and largely attended by the public.

APPENDIX I

Statement of Diseases and Deaths in Hospitals (1960-61)

	Causes	*In-patient*	*Out-patient*	*Deaths*
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system inclusive of all other forms	586	11,058	26
2.	Syphilis of all causes	132	3,565	..
3.	Typhoid including para-typhoid	4,044	5,673	98
4.	Dysentery of all forms	1,402	57,502	73
5.	Sore-throat	46	7,539	..
6.	Diptheria	94	338	7
7.	Whooping cough	52	7,033	..
8.	Meningococal infections	25	183	6
9.	Tetanus	255	15	3
10.	Rabies	29	289	2
11.	Infective Hepatitis	103	775	1
12.	Malaria	11	273	..
13.	Filariasis	20	656	..
14.	Ankylostomiasis	998	14,736	..
15.	Other diseases due to helminthus	1,387	34,192	..
16.	All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	49	14,323	1
17.	Malignant Neoplasm, all forms	383	16,754	..
18.	Diabetics Mellitus	840	3,056	11
19.	Avitaminosis, and other deficiency diseases	1,544	25,798	3
20.	Anaemia	4,042	1,30,458	79
21.	Allergic disorders	92	11,633	13
22.	Inflamatory diseases of eye	495	16,453	1
23.	Rheumatic fever	837	19,845	..
24.	Chronic Rheumatic heart diseases	1,236	7,505	26
25.	Other diseases of heart	82	4,128	10
26.	Diseases of the Circulatory system	488	4,762	19
27.	Influenza	433	23,170	2
28.	Pneumonia	1,208	15,591	47
29.	Bronchitis	1,861	54,570	..
30.	Abcess of lung and Pleurisy	223	1,645	5
31.	All other respiratory diseases	743	64,132	33
32.	Dental diseases	74	13,212	..
33.	Intestinal Ulcers and Gastritis	3,320	22,555	18
34.	Gastro-enteritis	578	18,235	26
35.	Other Diseases of digestive system	2,594	1,71,202	29
36.	Diseases of the Urinary system	2,275	31,185	11
37.	Complication in pregnancy and child birth including abortions	10,956	37,123	119
38.	Diseases of the skin and muscular-skeletal system	1,002	57,549	..
39.	Injuries, accidents, etc.	2,582	8,286	108

APPENDIX II

Statement of Hospitals. Dispensaries etc. in Quilon with details of Staff, bed strength etc. (1960-1961)

	Name of Institution		*Sanctioned bed strength*	*No. of Doctors*	*No. of Nurses*	*No. of Midwives*	*No. of compounders*	*No. of other skilled staff*
1.	District Hospital, Quilon	.	380	15	43	..	7	..
2.	Victoria Hospital, Quilon	..	104	5	8	16	2	2
3.	Government Dispensary, Kundara	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
4.	Government Dispensary, Perumon	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
5.	Government Dispensary, Paripally	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
6.	Primary Health Centre. Mayyanad	.	30	1	..	3	1	2
7.	Government Hospital, Kottarakara	..	60	3	6	2	1	..
8.	Government Dispensary, Chadayamangalam	..	.	1	..	1	1	..
9.	Primary Health Centre, Velinallur	.	.	1	..	3	1	2
10.	Primary Health Centre, Kadakkal	..	25	1	..	3	1	2
11.	Primary Health Centre, Nedumankavu	..	6	1	..	4	1	2
12.	Government Hospital, Punalur	..	88	4	4	1	1	(Honorary Medical officers)
13.	Government Dispensary, Kulathupuzha	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
14.	Government Dispensary, Pattachi	..	6	1	..	1	1	..
15.	Primary Health Centre, Pathanapuram	..	..	1	..	4	1	2
16.	Biweekly Dispensary, Thenmala	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17.	Government Hospital, Kozhencherry	..	69	2	6	3	3	1
18.	Government Dispensary, Elanthur	..	6	1	..	1	1	..
19.	Government Dispensary, Chenneerkara	..	4	1	..	1	1	..
20.	Government Dispensary, Pathanamthitta	..	4	1	..	1	1	..

21.	Government Dispensary, Kadambanitta	12	1	..	1	1	..
22.	Government Dispensary, Ranni-Perunad	4	1	..	1	1	..
23.	Government Dispensary, Vechuchira	4	1	..	1	1	..
24.	Primary Health Centre, Ranni	8	1	..	4	1	2
25.	Primary Health Centre, Konni	6	1	..	4	1	2
26.	Temporary Malaria Dispensary, Neduvathumuzhi	..	..	..	..	1	..
27.	Iyinerant Dispensary, Pathanamthitta	..	..	..	..	..	..
28.	Government Hospital, Adur	31	1	2	1	2	..
29.	Government Dispensary, Chandanapally	4	1	..	1	1	..
30.	Government Dispensary, Sasthamcotta	4	1	..	1	1	..
31.	Government Dispensary, Kadambanad	4	1	..	1	1	..
32.	Primary Health Centre, Sooranad	4	1	..	4	1	2
33.	Temporary Malaria Dispensary, Koodal	..	..	..	..	1	..
34.	Secondary Health Centre, Karunagapally	14	2	2	4	2	1
35.	Government Dispensary, Vallikavu	1	1	..	1	1	..
36.	Primary Health Centre, Chavara	8	1	..	3	1	2
37.	Primary Health Centre Mynagapally	6	1	..	4	1	2

APPENDIX III

Ayurveda Institutions (Departmental) in Quilon District—Indigenous Medicine Department.

Name of Institution	*Taluk*	*Nearest Post Office*	*Bed Strength of Hospitals*	*Staff Position*		
				Physicians	*Compounders*	*Nurses*
Quilon Hospital	Quilon	Quilon	10	2+(2)	1	1
Karunagapally	Karunagapally	Karunagapally	10	2+(2)	1	1
Ayur		Ayur	10	3+(1)	1	2
Ayurveda Dispensary,	Kottarakara					
Thrikadavur	Quilon	Anchalummud	..	1	1	..
Chathannur	,,	Chathannur	..	1	1	..
Vadakkevila	,,	Pallimukku	..	..	1	..
Kannanallur	,,		..	1	1	..
Kottarakara	Kottarakara	Kottarakara	..	1	1	..
Kuzhikkal Edavaka	,,	Karimpinpuzha	..	1	..	..
Kulakada	,,	Kulakada	..	1	1	..
Illiva	..	Kadakkal	..	1	1	..
Mynagapally	Karunagapally	Karunagapally	..	1	..	..
Kishnapuram	,,	Oachira	..	1	..	1
Thodiyur	,,	Thodayur	..	..	1	..
Srayicaud	,,	Clappana	..	1	..	..
Ranni	Pathanamthitta	Ranni	..	1	..	..
Naranganam	,,	Kozhencherry	..	1	..	..
Kalletty	,,	Konni	..	1	..	..
*Chittar	,,	Chittar	..	1	1	..
Thenmala	Pathanapuram	Thenmala	..	1	..	..
Pathanapuram	,,	Thalavur	..	1	1	..
Yerur	,,	Yerur	..	1	1	..
Kunnathur	Kunnathur	Angadickal North	..	1	1	..
*Adur	,,	Adur	..	1	1	..
Total			30	28.(5)(.)	16	5

(1) * Plan-Institutions. (2) (.) Hon. Physicians.

APPENDIX—IV.

Taluk-wise Distribution of Indigenous Medical Institutions in Quilon District as on 1-7-1961

Sl. No.	*Taluks*	*Ayurveda Hospitals*	*Ayurveda Dispensaries*	*Grant in aid Vaidyasala*		*Homeo Institutions (Deptl.)*	*Unani Institutions (Dept. or Grant-in-aid)*	*Total*
				I Grade	*II Grade*			
1	Quilon	1	4	4	17	Nil	Nil	26
2	Kottarakara	1	4	1	6	Nil	Nil	12
3	Kunnathur	Nil	2	..	3	Nil	Nil	5
4	Pathanapuram	Nil	3	2	4	Nil	Nil	9
5	Karunagapally	1	4	2	10	Nil	Nil	17
6	Pathanamthitta	Nil	4	..	10	Nil	Nil	14
	Total	3	21	9	50	..	..	83

APPENDIX—V

Distribution of Persons according to Knowledge of Family Planning Methods, Quilon Town—(1959-60)

Household Class	Knowledge of Family Planning Methods											
	Persons contacted		Not concerned				Knowledge					
			Not concerned		Refused		Nil		Vague		Sufficiently good	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
1. Lower (per cent)	217 (100.00)	217 (100.00)	.. (—)	.. (—)	2 (0.92)	1 (0.46)	112 (51.61)	118 (54.38)	50 (23.04)	52 (23.96)	53 (24.43)	46 (21.20)
2. Lower Middle (per cent)	164 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	2 (1.22)	2 (1.22)	.. (—)	.. (—)	36 (21.95)	47 (28.66)	26 (15.24)	21 (12.80)	101 (61.59)	94 (57.32)
3. Upper Middle (per cent)	79 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	1 (1.27)	1 (1.27)	4 (5.06)	4 (5.06)	19 (24.05)	4 (24.05)	10 (12.66)	12 (15.19)	45 (56.96)	43 (54.43)
4 High (per cent)	41 (100.00)	41 (100.00)	.. (—)	.. (—)	4 (9.76)	4 (9.76)	4 (9.76)	4 (9.76)	4 (9.76)	4 (9.76)	29 (70.72)	29 (70.72)
5 All Classes (per cent)	501 (100.00)	501 (100.00)	3 (0.60)	3 (0.60)	10 (2.00)	9 (1.80)	171 (34.13)	188 (37.52)	89 (17.76)	89 (17.76)	228 (45.51)	212 (42.32)

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Welfare

Labour welfare measures are implemented in Kerala by the Officers of the Department of Labour and the Chief Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers. The Department of Labour is responsible for the administration of most of the labour laws[1] while the Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers administers the Factories Act 1949, the Payment of Wages Act 1936 in respect of Factories and the Indian Boilers Act 1923.

The District Labour Officer, Quilon is the head of the Labour Department in the District. His main functions are to promote good relations between employers and employees and to enforce the provisions of the various labour laws. Under him are five Assistant Labour Officers with their headquarters at Adur, Chavara, Kundara, Punalur and Quilon. Each Assistant Labour Officer has two Welfare Assistants under him. In addition, there is a Deputy Labour Officer at Pathanamthitta who is under the administrative control of the District Labour Officer, Quilon. There is also another Deputy Labour Officer with headquarters at Quilon to attend to the task of implementing the minimum wages in the cashew industry. Further there is an Inspector of Shops and Establishments whose function is to enforce the provisions of the Shops and Establishments Act and minimum wages in shops and establishments. These officers are also under the administrative control of the District Labour Officer.

The District Labour Officer and the Deputy Labour Officers are Conciliation Officers under the Industrial Disputes Act. They initiate conciliation proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes. Such conciliation powers have not been vested in the Assistant Labour Officers. They try to settle disputes by mediation and by joint discussions and on their failure to achieve a settlement the matter is referred to the

1 The most important labour laws that benefit the workers have been enumerated in Chapter V.

concerned Deputy Labour Officer or District Labour Officer. In matters relating to industrial disputes the Assistant Labour Officers, Punalur and Adur are under the Deputy Labour Officer, Pathnamthitta. But the latter cannot exercise any administrative control over these Officers. The District Labour Officer, Deputy Labour Officers and Assistant Labour Officers also function as Inspectors under the Payment of Wages Act 1936, the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Travancore Shops and Establishments Act 1125, the Employment of Children Act 1938 and the Industrial Establishment (National and Festival Holidays) Act 1958.

There are three offices in this District under the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. They are those of the Inspector of Factories, Quilon, the Inspector of Factories, Kundara and the Inspector of Boilers, Quilon.

Industrial labourers in this District enjoy several amenities. The amenities enjoyed by certain categories of labourers may be briefly described. The employees of the State Transport Department are provided with staff rooms for their rest during intervals. A canteen for the staff is being run in the main garage premises at Quilon for supplying meals and other refreshments to the staff at reduced rates. For the operating staff who have to stay outside during their duty hours rooms have been provided at the respective out-stations for comfortable stay during the night. Facilities are provided for sports and games like badminton, carroms, etc. Two of the teams attached to this District took part in the Simon Memorial Ball Bad-minton Tournament in December 1960, and one of them won the rolling cup for the Quilon District. In the main garage necessary medicines and appliances for first-aid are kept ready at all times for urgent service to the staff. All categories of State Transport employees except the ministerial staff are supplied with two sets of uniforms every year. Moreover, all non-gazetted officers of the State Transport Department are also entitled to free medical aid, fee concession, etc., like the other non-gazetted Officers in Government service. There is a separate Welfare Officer for the Quilon District to attend to the welfare activities of the Department.

There are 49 estates in this District which come within the purview of the Plantation Labour Act. The workers in these estates are provided with all the facilities envisaged in the Act and the rules framed thereunder. Some of the estates

have canteens where tea, coffee, meals etc., are served. Reading rooms are provided in almost all plantations. There is one vocational Training School for the use of Plantation workers' children in Quilon District. Creches, hospitals and dispensaries are also provided in the plantations as required in the Plantation Labour Act and Rules. Qualified medical officers are working in the hospitals and dispensaries. Moreover, all resident plantation workers are provided with housing facilities at the rate of 8 per cent per year in accordance with the Kerala Plantation Labour Rules.

Maternity Benefit

The labourers in this District are also benefited by the provisions of the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act 1957. The details of the number of female workers covered by the Maternity Act, the number of claims accepted, the amount of maternity benefit paid, etc., in the cashew and match factories in this district during 1958-60 are given below:

Statement showing the number of female workers covered by the Maternity Act, the number of claims accepted, etc. in the Cashew and Match Industries for the years 1958-60

	Particulars	*Years*		
		1958	1959	1960
1.	Total number of female workers employed in factories submitting returns	31,345	45,744	36,747
2.	Total number of female workers excluding children covered under the Maternity Act	31,320	45,638	36,705
3	Number of claims accepted	6,532	10,352	5,082
4.	Number of miscarriages	7	17	15
5.	Amount of Maternity benefit paid	Rs. 2,74,694.95	Rs. 3,46,890.15	Rs. 2,76,277.6

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

94 establishments with an employment strength of about 13,300 workers had been brought under coverage of the Employees Provident Fund Act in the Quilon District by August 1961. Of these about 11,617 workers were contributing to the Employees Provident Fund. An industry-wise break-up of establishments and employees and subscribers is given below:

Industry-wise statement of Establishments benefited by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme. (August, 1961)

Sl. No.	Industry	No. of Establishments	No. of employees	No. of subscribers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	General Engineering	10	1736	1686
2	Paper	1	1545	1445
3	Textiles	1	908	868
4	Edible Oils & Fats	3	77	70
5	Rubber & Rubber Products	1	55	55
6	Tea	8	2499	2278
7	Printing	4	193	187
8	Sanitary wares	1	10	10
9	Refractories	3	591	527
10	Tiles	19	2181	1877
11	Heavy & Fine Chemicals	1	30	30
12	Newspaper Establishments	3	152	129
13	Rubber Plantations	19	2144	1308
14	Miscellaneous	9	697	689
15	Biscuit making, confectionery	1	24	20
16	Road Motor Transport	12	492	438
	Total	96	13334	11617

Employees State Insurance Scheme

The Employees State Insurance Scheme was implemented in the District on 16th August 1956. The number of employees covered by the scheme as on 31st December 1961 in the District was 17,103. As only factories employing 20 or more and using power come under the purview of the Employees State Insurance Act only the Employees of such establishments are covered under the scheme. In 1959-60 there were three dispensaries, viz., the Mobile Dispensary, E.S.I. Dispensary, Asramam and the E.S.I. Dispensary, Pattathanam. In 1961-62 two more full-time E.S.I. dispensaries have been established in this District at Kottiyam and Kilikollur. A statement showing the medical benefits derived by insured persons from each of these dispensaries during the year 1959-60 is given below:

Statement of Medical benefits under the Employees State Insurance Scheme—1959-60

	Mobile Dispensary	E. S. I. Dispensary, Asramam	E. S. I. Dispensary, Pattathanam
Total number treated	12,886	58,320	39,713
Total number of operations performed	49	84	84
Total number of patients hospitalised	52	156	196
Total number of home visits made	..	..	..
Total number of injury reports received	4	72	107
Total number of certificates issued	5,208	18,528	50,802

The services of a part-time specialist each in Medicine, Surgery, T.B., E.N.T., Eye, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, X-ray and Pathology have also been made available to the employees under the E.S.I. Scheme. It may be mentioned that the E.S.I. Corporation has sanctioned the construction of a hospital with 50 beds in Quilon for the exclusive use of insured workers.

In order to meet the needs of those requiring hospitalisation beds are reserved in the respective District Hospitals under the E.S.I. Scheme. Thus 10 general beds are reserved in the District Hospital, Quilon and 4 maternity beds in the Victoria Hospital, Quilon for the use of insured patients under the E.S.I. Scheme. Moreover, the insured persons under the E.S.I. Scheme in this District also get their share of the 20 beds reserved for T. B. patients in Trivandrum—Quilon area in the T. B. Hospital Pulayanarkotta, Trivandrum. The share of the State Government in the finances of the Employees State Insurance Scheme with regard to the extension of medical care to families of insured patients is limited to meet 1|8th of the cost of medical benefits under the scheme while 7|8th will be borne by the Corporation.

Old Age Pension Scheme

It may be relevant in this connection to refer to the working of the Old Age Pension Scheme introduced in the District in 1960-61.[1] All destitute persons of 70 years of age and above who are domiciled and have resided in Kerala State for more than a year on the date of application for receipt of pension are entitled to the benefit of Old Age Pension under the Scheme.[2] Applications for the grant of pension are submitted to the respective Tahsildars who verify the information furnished and forward them with their recommendations to the District Collector. The Collector sanctions the pension and disburses the amount to the pensioners by Money Order, the Money Order charges being met by the Government. According to the information received in June 1962 the number of persons benefited by this Scheme in this District came to 360. The rate of pension is Rs. 15 per mensem. The following is the Talukwise statement showing the number of applications received and the number sanctioned, till June 1962.

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1 Vide G.O.(P) 569|60 dated 24th November 1960.

2 A novel scheme of monthly pension for destitute widows and physically disabled or handicapped persons has come into effect in Kerala with effect from January 1, 1964. A monthly pension up to Rs. 20 will be paid to destitute widows with children and up to Rs. 15 to those without children and to physically disabled or handicapped persons.

Name of Taluk	*No. of applications received*	*Number sanctioned*
Quilon	253	128
Karunagapally	218	75
Kottarakara	160	39
Pathanapuram	155	35
Pathanamthitta	114	50
Kunnathur	136	33
Total	1,036	360

PROHIBITION

Prohibition has been introduced in two Taluks of the Quilon District, viz., Pathanapuram and Kottarakara. In Pathanapuram it was introduced on August 17, 1950 and in Kottarakara on April 1, 1955. The dry areas covering these two Taluks come to about 684.85 square miles. The work of enforcement of prohibition in the District is being carried out by the Excise Department. The prohibition zone has been split up into three Excise Ranges viz., Pathanapuram, Kottarakara and Chadayamangalam each of which is under the charge of an Excise Inspector. The Kottarakara and Chadayamangalam Ranges together constitute the Kottarakara Taluk. There are altogether 6 prohibition checking stations in all the three Ranges together and they are provided with the necessary staff for checking vehicles and passengers. Special parties of excise subordinates are organised for patrolling suspected areas with a view to preventing malpractices like illicit distillation.

Under the prohibition laws import, export, transport or possession of liquor or any intoxicating drug, tapping and drawing toddy, distilling and keeping in possession any apparatus for the purpose etc., are punishable. However, import, transport or possession of liquor or intoxicating drug is allowed on the strength of the permits issued by the Prohibition Commissioner.

There has been a marked increase in the number of prohibition cases detected in recent years. The statistics of prohibition offences in the three Ranges of the District for each of the years from 1957 to 1961 is given below:

Range	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Pathanapuram	27	35	56	83	103
Kottarakara	23	19	50	75	80
Chadayamangalam	33	34	42	76	91

The excise staff engaged in enforcing prohibition has to face several difficulties in the course of their work. The working of prohibition laws for about a decade has not brought about any appreciable change in the social consciousness of the common man, and the excise officials have therefore not been getting public co-operation in large measure in carrying out their task. A good number of prohibition cases charge-sheeted before courts of law end in the acquittal of the accused for want of independent evidence. The independent witnesses often turn hostile to the prosecution. There is also difficulty in getting respectable persons as attestors of *mahazar* from the localities where the cases are detected. Another difficulty facing the prohibition staff in carrying out their duties satisfactorily is the lack of transport arrangement. It may be noted in this connection that a large part of the dry belt in this District is covered by thick forests and this adds to the difficulties of the staff.

During the period immediately following the introduction of prohibition in the District several Co-operative Societies were organised for the manufacture of jaggery and through these Societies a number of tappers who were thrown out of employment got employed. However, in 1961 there was only one such Co-operative Society functioning in the District, that is, in the Kottarakara Taluk.

With a view to enlisting public co-operation in the effective enforcement of prohibition the Kerala Government have constituted District Prohibition Advisory Committees consisting of official and non-official members for all the Districts of the State. The Quilon District Prohibition Advisory Committee with the District Collector as Chairman and the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Quilon, as Convener commenced functioning in 1960. The Committee meets once in a month and the minutes of its proceedings are forwarded to the Government and the Board of Revenue. The Committee has put up several proposals for the effective enforcement of prohibition laws. One of the proposals is that the Excise Inspectors of each Range should be provided with fast moving vehicles like jeep, van etc., so that they would not have to face any transport difficulties. The Committee has also requested Government to appoint additional Public Prosecutors for the successful prosecution of the prohibition cases.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

The Department of Harijan Welfare attends to the work connected with the advancement of the Scheduled Castes,

Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Communities in the District. The District Welfare Officer, Quilon, is the head of the Department at the district level and in each Taluk there is a Taluk Welfare Inspector. The Tribal Colony at Achencoil is under the Special Officer, Colonisation Scheme. There is a Co-operative Inspector to supervise the working of the Harijan Co-operatives. He is under the administrative control of the District Welfare Officer and the technical control of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies attached to the Department of Harijan Welfare. The Industrial Supervisor, Trivandrum, who has jurisdiction over the Districts of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam supervises the Model Welfare Villages and other industrial institutions. He is under the administrative control of the District Welfare Officer, Trivandrum and technical control of the Chief Industrial Supervisor, attached to the Harijan Welfare Department. There is a District Advisory Committee for Harijan Welfare with the District Collector as Chairman.

One of the important measures connected with Harijan Welfare work is the eradication of untouchability. Under Article 17 of the Constitution of India untouchability has been abolished and the practice of the same in any form is forbidden. In spite of this constitutional guarantee untouchability is still observed in some degree or in some form in various parts of the country, especially in the rural areas. The Government have made arrangements for carrying on intensive propaganda against the observance of untouchability. The 30th of each month is celebrated as Harijan Day.[1] The Harijan Sevaks in each Taluk convene meetings at which the evils of untouchability are brought home to the people and information on the various development schemes sponsored by the Harijan Welfare Department is also made available to them. It may be mentioned in this connection that temple entry for Harijans was proclaimed in Travancore even as early as 1936. This had helped all along to create the necessary public opinion in favour of the abolition of untouchability.

Every effort is made to secure the educational and social advancement of the Harijans. They are given stipends and scholarships at all stages of education. They are exempted from payment of fees. Lump sum grants for the purchase of books and clothings are paid to all Harijan students. The

1 In the month of February, it is celebrated on the last day of the month.

grants for those in the Colleges range from Rs. 60 to 250 per mensem depending on the nature of the course. Boarding and lodging expenses are also borne by the Government. Pupils in the High School classes and Upper Primary classes are given lump sum grants of Rs. 40 and Rs. 25 respectively. Those in Standards III, IV, and V are given lum sum grants of Rs. 15. The following statement gives details of the total amount spent on scholarships, stipends etc., to Harijan students and the total number benefited during each of the years from 1958 to 1962.

Year	Total amount spent as Scholarships, Exam. fees, value of Books etc. for Harijans	No. of Harijan students benefited	Total amount spent as Scholarships, Exam. fees, value of Books ect. for Adivasis	No. of Adivasi students benefited
POST MATRICULATION COURSES:				
	Rs.		Rs	
1958-59	1,00,380.00	182	Nil	Nil
1959-60	1,28,571.00	216	Nil	Nil
1960-61	1,36,029.70	222	Nil	Nil
1961-62	1,70,994.80	271	Nil	Nil
PRE-MATRICULATION COURSES:				
1958-59	4,47,517.00	41,428	1,959.00	212
1959-60	4,73,073.00	43,540	1,268.87	275
1960-61	5,04,607.00	46,183	2,571.00	360
1961-62	5,75,633.21	47,630	5,115.32	684

In the Quilon District, there are 56 Welfare Schools and 9 Tribal Schools for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. All these schools are primary schools, though not full-fledged ones. There are no Middle Schools run by the Department. The entire cost of maintaining the schools including the pay of the staff and noon feeding expenses of the pupils is met by the Harijan Welfare Department at an aggregate average cost of Rs. 5,000 per annum per school.

The Harijan Welfare Department is also engaged in promoting the cause of social education among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. A number of libraries and night schools have been set up in different parts of the District. In 1959-60 there were 24 libraries in the District—5 in Quilon Taluk, 4 in Kottarakara, 2 in Pathanapuram, 6 in Kunnathur, 3 in Karunagapally and 4 in Pathanamthitta. During the same period there were 23 night schools where illiterate adult members of the Harijan community were taught. Of these 7 schools were

in Kottarakara, 2 in Pathanapuram, 4 in Quilon, 4 in Kunnathur, 4 in Karunagapally, and 2 in Pathnamthitta Taluks.

Another important measure that has been initiated by the Department to achieve the social and economic advancement of the Harijans is the assignment of lands to them on concessional terms. The Government or private lands are acquired according to necessity for the purpose of setting up Harijan colonies in important centres in the District. In 1961-62 there were 4 such colonies in Quilon Taluk, 3 in Kunnathur, 5 in Kottarakara, 1 in Pathanamthitta and another in Pathanapuram Taluk. The maximum extent of lands assigned to each Harijan family in rural areas is 10 cents and in urban areas 5 cents. In exceptional cases these limits would be relaxed. The maximum extent of lands assigned to Scheduled Tribes is in Achencoil where 100 acres of land have been distributed equitably among 40 families. No grant is generally provided for the improvement of the lands allotted, but in the tribal colony at Achencoil a lump sum grant of Rs. 100 was given to each family for the improvement of the assigned land.

A complete list of Harijan Colonies in Quilon District showing the location, and extent of the colonies and the number of house sites in each is given below:

Sl. No.	*Name of Colony*	*Village*	*Taluk*	*Extent*		*No. of house sites*
				Acre	*Cent*	
1	Sambranirodu	Thrikaruva	Quilon	4	00	24
2	Kalluvathukal	Meenad	,,	3	00	24
3	Kalakode	Poothakulam	,,	4	86	21
4	Vellimon	Perinad	,,	5	00	46
5	Iverkala	Kadambanad	Kunnathur	1	50	20
6	Kadambanad	Kadambanad	,,	17	70	16
7	Poruvazhy	Poruvazhy	,,	60	18	20
8	Kulakkada	Kulakkada	Kottarakara	35	00	50
9	Veliyam	Veliyam	,,	65	82	86
10	Vettikavala	Vettikavala	,,	30	00	29
11	Pavithreswaram (Airukuzhi Colony)	Pavithreswaram	,,	4	97	30
12	Ezhukone	Ezhikone	,,	34	52	120
13	Elanthur	Elanthur	Pathanamthitta	6	95	48
14	Achencoil	Ariankavu	Pathanapuram	100	..	40

The Department is also taking steps to provide the Harijans with wells for good drinking water. In 1960-61 there were in all 12 wells for Scheduled Tribes and 52 wells for

Scheduled Castes sunk in this District at an average cost of Rs. 2,500 per well.

The Department has also given aid for the erection of common buildings like Bhajan Mutts, Prayer halls etc., for the use of Harijans in six villages, viz., Perinad, Kulakkada, Adur, Enadimangalam, Veliyam and Elanthur.

There are separate wings in the Harijan Welfare Department for industries and co-operation. Five Model Welfare Villages for Scheduled Castes have been set up at Kulakkada (Kottarakara Taluk), Vettikavala (Kottarakara Taluk), Sooranad (Kunnathur Taluk)), Kalakode (Quilon Taluk) and Thalavur (Pathanapuram Taluk). In each of these centres 28 Harijans are being given training in Carpentry, Rattan work, Poultry and Bee-keeping etc. Model Welfare Villages for Scheduled Castes have been set up at Ottakal and Shendurunl in Pathanapuram Taluk. Here ten Harijans each are given instruction in Bamboo Basket making and rattan work. There are also two Industrial Training Centres for Scheduled Castes in this District. They are located at Oachira in Karunagapally and Aycaud in Kunnathur Taluk. In each of these centres 25 Harijans are taught Rattan work and Cotton weaving. Two craft centres for Scheduled Tribes have been established at Chittaramanakayam and Kadimeenchira in Pathanamthitta Taluk. Each of these centres is intended to impart training to Scheduled Tribes. The trainees in almost all cases get a monthly stipend of Rs. 25 each. Moreover, there are 11 Co-operative Societies working under the auspices of the Harijan Welfare Department in this District. Of these 11 are for the Scheduled Castes, 7 for the Scheduled Tribes and 2 for the other backward communities. The Co-operative Societies of the Scheduled Castes are functioning at Vettikavala, Kulakkada, Kalakode, Sooranad, Thalavur, Ezhamkulam, Chittumala, Veliyam, Thalavurkonam, Edathara and Quilon. Those of the Scheduled Tribes are at Chittaramanakayam, Kadimeenchira, Villumala, Cherukkal, Achencoil, Rajampara and Pathnamthitta and those of the other backward communities at Kandachira and Adur.

The Harijans are also benefited by the scheme for legal aid to the poor sponsored by the Government of Kerala.[1] The Department also bestows attention on public health and sanitation in the Harijan colonies. A midwife has been appointed at the Achencoil tribal colony to attend to the families of the Scheduled Tribes settled there.

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1 Vide G.O. No. (p) 1133 dated September 17, 1958.

The total expenditure of the Harijan Welfare Department in this District for each of the years from 1959-60 to 1961-62 is given below:

Year	Tota Expenditure
	Rs.
1959-60	10,09,005.00
1960-61	15,33,035.00
1961-62	18,40,764.00

PUBLIC TRUSTS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Devaswoms

The Travancore Devaswom Board is responsible for the administration of the Hindu religious and charitable institutions in the Travancore area of the State. The *Devaswoms* (Temples) in this District are broadly classified by the Board into four groups, viz., Kottarakara group, Quilon group, Pattazhi group and Aranmula group, for the purpose of administration. There are 102 Devaswoms in the Kottarakara group 137 in the Quilon group, 14 in the Pattazhi group and 62 in the Aranmula group. The major Devaswoms in each of the groups are mentioned below.[1]

Kottarakara Group.—1. Kottarakara, 2. Vettikavala, 3. Velinallur, 4. Pallichal, 5. Adur Parthasarathy, 6. Thrikodeswaram, and 7. Chadayamangalam.

Quilon Group.—1. Anandavalleeswaram Devaswom, 2. Mukathala, 3. Asramam, 4. Chittadeeswaram, 5. Panmana, 6. Thevalakara, 7. Pavumba, 8. Marthandapupram, 9. Kanjiramcode, 10. Thirumullavaram.

Pattazhi Group.—1. Ariankavu, 2. Achencoil and 3. Kulathupuzha.

Aranmula Group.—1. Aranmula, 2. Sabarimala, 3. Omallur, 4. Ayiroor Puthiakavu, 5. Kaipuzha Subramoniaswami, 6. Thiruvanvandur and 7. Pathanamthitta.

Each of the Groups is under the charge of a Superintendent appointed by the Devaswom Board. In addition to the temples the Board is also running a few institutions like schools, libraries, orphanages etc., in this District. It runs a Lower Primary School at Asramam and 3 Upper Primary Schools at Thirumullavaram, Vilakudi and Angadickal. The Sri Chitra

1 Some of the Devaswoms mentioned here fall outside the Quilon Revenue District.

Hindu Religious Libraries at Anandavalleeswaram and Kottarakara are also run by the Devaswom Board in this District. There is an orphanage at Quilon which is also functioning under the Devaswom Board.

Wakf Board

The Muslim religious and charitable institutions like mosques, *Wakf* properties etc., are administered by the Kerala *Wakf* Board which was set up on October 1, 1960 under the provisions of the *Wakf* Act 1954. There is a District Sub-Committee of the *Wakf* Board to superintend the administration of Muslim religious and charitable institutions in Quilon. According to the *Kerala Muslim Directory* (1960) there are 276 mosques in this District.

Other Endowments

The list of properties vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, Kerala State, published for the year 1959-60 contains 300 items. It does not contain any major charitable endowments which can be said to be specially intended for this District. Reference may however be made to the Vanchi Poor Fund which functions with headquarters at Trivandrum, but has its branches in Quilon, Kunnathur, Karunagapally and Pathanamthitta. The Fund was set up in November 1942 with a view to providing mid-day meals and necessary clothing to poor pupils of educational institutions and to providing boarding and lodging facilities to destitute disabled and aged persons who are unable to work for their living.[1] The day-to-day affairs of the Fund are managed by a Working Committee of 12 members which includes the Minister for Local Administration and the Mayor, Corporation of Trivandrum. It may be noted in this connection that the activities of the Vanchi Poor Fund are carried on mainly in Trivandrum, though it has its branches in other parts of the erstwhile Travancore area of the State. It is seen from the report of the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, Kerala State for 1959-60 that the cash receipts and cash expenditure of the Quilon, Kunnathur, Karunagapally and Pathanamthitta branches of the Vanchi Poor Fund came to Rs. 659 and 450, Rs. 420 and Rs. 288, Rs. 781.75 and 534.50, and Rs. 369.50 and 253.00 respectively.

Another endowment which may be said to belong to this District is the Sree Mulam Shashtiabdapoorthi Dharmalaya Endowment, Chavara. It consists of 64 cents of land in

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1 See *Trivandrum District Gazetteer*, pp. 749-50.

Paamana Pakuthi, Karunagapally Taluk. Its administration is vested in a Committee consisting of the Ministers for Finance, Health and Revenue, District Collector, Trivandrum, Superintendent, General Hospital, Corporation Commissioner, Trivandrum and Finance Secretary to Government.

The Rama Rao Hospital, Nedungolam, is an important endowment which has 16.12 acres of land in Quilon Taluk, and 69.12 acres in the Pathanapuram Taluk. The administration of the endowment is vested in the Business Manager, Southern Travancore London Medical Mission, Neyyur.

The other endowments pertaining to Quilon which are included in the list of Charitable Endowments are intended mainly for awarding scholarships and prizes to students in schools and are not major endowments deserving detailed treatment.

DISTRICT S. S. A. BOARD

The District Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's (S.S. & A.) Board, Quilon, started functioning in February, 1955. It has been set up exclusively for the purpose of attending to matters pertaining to the welfare of Ex-servicemen and families of the deceased and serving military personnel of the District. The composition of the Board is as follows:

Official members

1. The District Superintendent of Police, Quilon.
2. The District Employment Officer, Quilon.
3. The Chairman of the Quilon Municipality.
4. The District Educational Officer, Quilon.

Non-Official members

1. An Ex-serviceman of the District to represent the Army.
2. An Ex-serviceman of the District to represent the Navy.
3. An Ex-serviceman of the District to represent the Air Force.
4. A prominent lawyer of the District.
5. An eminent Medical Practitioner of the District.
6. A prominent businessman of the District.

The District Collector, Quilon, is the Chairman of the Board and the Recruiting Officer of the area or his nominee its Vice-President. The District S.S. & A. Board functions

under the general control and supervision of the State S.S. & A. Board. Its affairs are attended to by a Secretary appointed by the State S.S. & A. Board from a panel of duly qualified candidates furnished by the District Employment Exchange. The Secretary has the status of a District Officer and he acts as a connecting link between the officials in the Defence Department and the ex-servicemen in general with regard to the settlement of pension cases, financial grants etc. The accounts of the Board are audited by the Local Fund Audit Department.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE & VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

The Quilon District was split up till recently into 12 Constituencies for the purpose of election to the State Legislature. They were Eravipuram, Quilon, Thrikadavur, Karunagapally, Krishnapuram, Kunnathur, Kottarakara, Chadayamangalam, Pathanapuram, Punalur, Ranni and Pathanamthitta. Of these Thrikadavur and Kunnathur were double-member constituencies till the election of 1960 and all the others were single member constituencies. After 1960 the double member constituencies of Kunnathur and Thrikadavur were split up into four new single member constituencies viz. Kunnathur, Adur, Thrikadavur and Kundara, and the Quilon District came to have 14 Assembly constituencies.

As regards representation in the Lok Sabha, the Quilon District constituted a double-member constituency during the elections of 1957. By the time of the General Election of 1962 the double member constituency of Quilon had been abolished following delimitation, and the people of this District cast their votes in four different inter-District Parliamentary constituencies, viz., Thiruvalla, Mavelikara, Quilon and Chirayinkil. The Ranni and Pathanamthitta Assembly constituencies form part of the Thiruvalla Parliamentary constituency, the Punalur, Pathanapuram, Adur and Kunnathur Assembly constituencies form part of the Mavelikara Parliamentary constituency reserved for the Scheduled Castes and, those of Kottarakara and Chadayamangalam form part of Chirayinkil Parliamentary constituency. It may be noted that of these three Parliamentary Constituencies only Mavelikara has the bulk of its voters from this District. The Quilon Parliamentary constituency has however the Krishnapuram, Karunagapally, Thrikadavur, Kundara, Quilon and Eravipuram constituencies of this District as its component parts. But even this Parliamentary constituency does not fall completely within the

Quilon District, because the Assembly constituency of Kayamkulam which belongs to the neighbouring Alleppey District also forms part of the Quilon Parliamentary constituency.

Political Parties and Organisations

The major political parties in the District are the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India (C.P.I.), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (R.S.P.) and the Praja Socialist Party (P.S.P.). Of these all except the R.S.P. have been recognised by the Election Commission as All India Parties. Though the R.S.P. has enjoyed only the status of a State party, it has been an important element in the politics of this District. In no other District of Kerala does this party enjoy the influence that it has in Quilon. It has considerable hold on the labourers employed in the cashew, mineral and other industries in the District.

We get an idea of the relative strength of the political parties in the District from a study of the results of the general elections of 1957, 1960 and 1962.[1] In the elections of 1957 all the political parties contested the elections independently without entering into any electoral adjustments. For the 14 Assembly seats from this District there were altogether 50 candidates in the field—14 Congressmen, 13 Communists, 7 Praja Socialists, 12 Revolutionary Socialists and 4 Independents. Out of a total of 1,012,470 votes, 786,312 (77.14%) votes were polled. Out of the total number of votes polled the Congress Party secured 266,633, the C.P.I. 324 173, the P.S.P. 63,326, the R.S.P. 106.997 and the Independents 25,183. It may thus be seen that the Communist Party polled the largest number of votes, with the Congress coming second and the RS.P. third. However, the Congress party secured 4 seats and the Communists ten, the other parties drawing blank. In the general elections to the Assembly in 1960 there was a re-alignment of forces. The Congress and the P.S.P. entered into an electoral alliance and they were supported also by the Kerala State Muslim League, which had its own adherents

1 It may be noted that while elections to both the State Assembly and the Lok Sabha were held in Kerala in 1957, only elections to the State Assembly were held in 1960, and elections to the Lok Sabha in 1962. A mid-term election was rendered necessary in 1960 following the dismissal of the Communist Ministry in 1959 July and the promulgation of President's rule.

among the Muslims of this District.[1] The Communist Party and the R.S.P. fought the elections independently. The Congress and the P.S.P. contested 8 and 6 seats respectively on behalf of the Congress-P.S.P.-Muslim League Alliance, while the Communist Party put up its own candidates for all the 14 seats. The R.S.P. also put up its candidates, but as the party did not enjoy legal recognition as a State party its candidates were included among the Independents. The number of Independent Candidates at this election was 20 including several candidates of the R.S.P. Out of a total of 1,119,562 votes 1,005,060 (89.6%) votes were polled in this election. This was definitely above the State average of 86.08% and testifies to the high degree of political consciousness prevailing among the people of the District. Out of the total of 1,005,060 votes the Congress polled 284,814, the Communist Party candidates 437,217, the P.S.P. candidates 190,600, and the Independents including R.S.P. candidates 93,933. The Congress Party won 6 seats, the Communist Party 4, the P.S.P. 3 and an Independent who was a member of the R.S.P. one.[2] It may be seen that though the Communist Party still emerged with the largest number of popular votes, it got only 4 out of the 14 seats, i.e., six seats less than what it had in the previous Assembly. The Congress party got 6 seats, i.e., two seats more than what it had in the previous Assembly. The party which definitely gained was the P.S.P. This was the result of its electoral alliance with the Congress Party. A detailed statement of the results of the General Elections of 1957 and 1960 in each of the 12 Assembly constituencies of the District is given at Appendix I to this Chapter.

Coming to the elections to the Lok Sabha, the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party and the R.S.P. contested both the seats from the double-member Parliamentary constituency of Quilon in 1957. The Congress candidate polled 363,367 votes, the Communist candidate 567,347, and the R.S.P. candidate 273,040. Both the seats were annexed by the Communist Party which polled the largest number of votes. In the elections of 1962 to the Lok Sabha, the seat

1 Though the Kerala State Muslim League as a party has its units in various parts of the District, it does not command enough following here to put up its own candidates|

2 The only R.S.P. Member in the Kerala Legislative Assembly constituted after the elections of 1960 is from the Karunagapally constituency of Quilon District.

from the Quilon Parliamentary constituency which was composed predominantly of Assembly Constituencies from this District was contested by a Congress candidate and a R.S.P candidate supported by the Communist party. In this straight contest the seat was won by the R.S.P. candidate.[1] In the Mavelikara Parliamentary constituency which has four Assembly Constituencies from this District there were three candidates, viz., a Congressman, a Communist and an Independent. The seat was won by the Congress candidate. In view of the fact that no Parliamentary constituency falls wholly within this District, it is difficult to give a proper analysis of the votes polled from here in the elections to the Lok Sabha in 1962.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Four Malayalam dailies are published from this District, all of them being from Quilon town. They are the *Malayalarajyam*, the *Prabhatham*, the *Janayugom* and the *Dinamani*. The *Malayalarajyam* was started in 1929 by K. G. Parameswaran Pillai who was a prominent figure in the public life of the District. The first Editor of this newspaper was C. V. Kunjuraman who is one of the stalwarts that Malayalam journalism has produced. The *Malayalarajyam* is a nationalist, independent and pro-Congress Newspaper which is managed by a Private Limited Company. According to the certificate issued by the Audit Bureau of Circulation for July-December 1961 the average net sale of this newspaper came to 20,394. In Quilon District alone the circulation came to 10,311 out of which 5,142 copies were sold in Quilon town. It had a fairly large circulation in the adjoining Districts also—5,015 in Trivandrum, 4,011 in Alleppey and 1,441 in Kottayam. This newspaper is patronised mainly by the middle and upper class Hindus who form the bulk of its readers.

The *Prabhatham* daily was started in 1944 by the Muslim industrialist Thangal Kunju Musaliar. Its objective is the promotion of national causes, and it is favoured particularly by the business community and nationalist Muslims. It was reported in January 1962 that the average daily circulation of *Prabhatham* was 15,616 copies out of which 4,730 were sold in the Quilon District itself.

1 The Quilon seat is the only one held by a R.S.P. member from Kerala in the Lok Sabha.

The *Janayugom* daily commenced publication in 1948. It is an organ of the Communist Party of India, and has a fairly wide circulation in almost all Districts comprising the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin area. According to the report received in January 1962 the maximum certified net sale of the *Janayugom* came to 29,552 copies out of which 6,202 were sold in the Quilon District. It had at the same time a circulation of 5,084 copies in Alleppey District, 3,651 copies in Ernakulam District, 5,802 copies in Kottayam District, 1930 copies in Trichur Distsict and 5.642 copies in Trivanlrum District. This newspaper is managed by the Janayugom Publications Limited, Quilon and it is today one of the leading dailies of Kerala State.

The *Dinamani* started publication in 1954 and is managed by Sree Narayana Press and Publications (Private) Limited. A pro-Congress nationalist daily, it had an average daily circulation of 14,523 copies in January 1962. On Mondays the circulation of this newspaper goes up to 18,000 copies. This is because most of the other newspapers do not have their editions on Mondays.

In addition to the four dailies mentioned above some of the newspapers published outside the district are also in common circulation in Quilon. The *Kerala Kaumudi* (Trivandrum) the *Malayala Manorama* (Kottayam) and the *Mathrubhumi* (Ernakulam) may be mentioned in this connection. The *Kerala Kaumudi* had an average daily circulation of 8,195 in January-June 1960. and the *Malayala Manorama* 17,665 copies in January 1963. The *Mathrubhumi* reported a circulation of 6,998 copies in Quilon District as on January, 1, 1963. No English daily is published from Quilon. The *Indian Express* and the *Hindu* published from Madras State are widely read by the literate sections of the community.

The most important periodicals in Malayalam published from Quilon are *"Janayugom Weekly"* and *"Malayalarajyam Weekly"*. They cater to the literary and cultural tastes of the people and have a fairly wide circulation among Malayalam speaking people in Kerala and outside. The details regarding these weeklies can be had from Chapter XV. According to the *Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India* (1961), a Malayalam weekly by name *Panchajanyam* is also published from Kottarakara in the District. Established in 1960 it is owned by the Adhyatmika Vidya Sanghom and had

an average circulation of 1,000 copies. The Report also mentions the *Voice of Assissi* as an English monthly published from Quilon. Established in 1945 it is devoted to Christian religion, and philosophy and is owned by the Capuchin Province of India. Its average circulation is stated to be 9,067 copies. Among the Malayalam monthlies of the District mentioned in the Report are the *Alind Varthakal*[1] established in 1960 (circulation 1,300 copies), *Amittu* established in 1959 (circulation 14,749 copies), *Anaseem* established in 1956 (circulation 2,000 copies),[2] *Bethesda Duthan* established in 1960 (circulation 700 copies), *Frenciscan Bulletin* established in 1952 (circulation 7,621 copies)[3] *Kerala Vidyarthi* established in 1960 (circulation 750 copies), *Orthodox Youth* established in 1958 (circulation 731 copies)[4] *Pothusabdam* established in 1959 (circulation 941 copies) and *Pravaham* established in 1951 (circulation 1,000 copies).

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The Quilon District is served by a wide net-work of Voluntary Social Service Organisations. Brief accounts of some of the important Organisations which co-operated by furnishing the necessary particulars for this Chapter are given below.

Sree Narayana Trusts· Quilon

The Sree Narayana Trusts, Quilon, set up in 1962 runs a number of institutions in this District and outside. The Sree Narayana College, Quilon, the Sree Narayana College for Women, Quilon, the S. N. College Hostel for women, Quilon, the Staff Hostel for Women, Quilon, the Sree Narayana Poly-technic Kottiyam, the Sree Narayana Training College, Nedumganda, and the Sree Narayana College, Cannanore are owned, managed and administered by the above Trusts. The objects of the Trusts include the maintenance and development

1 This is owned by the Aluminium Industries (Private) Ltd. Kundara.

2 This is owned by the Dakshina Kerala Jamayathul Ulema and is devoted to Muslim religion and philosophy.

3 This periodical is owned by Capuchin Province of India and is devoted to religion and philosophy.

4 This is owned by the Orthodox Youth Movement and is devoted to religion and philosophy.

of the existing educational institutions under it, the construction of additional buildings for the colleges and the establishment and maintenance of other institutions intended for the educational, cultural, economic, social and religious welfare and advancement of the people, and the acceptance of any other Trust created in the name of Sree Narayana Guru for the purpose of propagating his teachings or for the purpose of working for the educational advancement of the backward people.

The Board of Trustees which includes the President and General Secretary of the S.N.D.P. Yogam elects an Executive Committee of not less than five and not more than nine persons in order to run the day-to-day administration of the Trusts. The Executive Committee is empowered to regulate admissions to Colleges and other institutions, and their strength and courses of studies, to appoint and remove the members of the staff of various institutions, and to determine the terms and conditions of their service. One of the members of the Executive Committee is elected by the Board of Trustees as its Secretary. The Secretary operates all accounts opened with any bank, in the name of the Trust, convenes annual meetings of the Board of Trustees, and carries on in general the executive functions of the Trust. The Sree Narayana Trusts has been doing meritorious service in the field of learning and education in the District since its inception.

Gandhi Smarak Nidhi

The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi runs a *Grama Seva* Centre (Village Development Centre) at Thoovayoor South, in Kunnathur Taluk in the Quilon District. The Centre is located in the heart of this village in a three-acre plot. A suite of buildings to accommodate the office, workers and village industries has been set up. The Centre has been carrying on manifold activities. It runs a Model Nursery and Garden, where different varieties of vegetables are grown and seeds distributed. The people in and around the village are induced to grow more vegetables and to enrich their food. Spinning and weaving are taught in this Centre. Till 1961 about 100 Kisan Charkas and 60 Amber Charkas had been distributed. Fifteen looms are at work at the Centre. The Unit provides part-time employment to 125 people and full-time work to 45 persons. Through the Oil Pressers' Co-operative Society organised by

the Centre, the oil pressers of the village are assisted with raw material. Moreover, two improved varieties of oil *ghanis* are installed in the centre. Soap is manufactured on a small scale and sold at a nominal price to the villagers. A small unit for hand-pounding of paddy is also working at the Centre. The local people are induced to prefer the use of hand-pounded rice in consideration of its nutritive value. The Centre has made great efforts to secure *Bhoodan* to make land available to the landless and about 300 families have been benefited by this. Utilising the aid from the Government, the Centre has built for the poor, especially for the Harijans, 58 houses each costing about Rs. 1,200. The *Santi Sena* organised under the auspices of the Centre intervenes in all kinds of conflicts between individuals and groups and settles them amicably, thus reducing the evils of litigation. The extension activities of the Centre are carried on through Co-operative Societies. A nursery school is conducted under the auspices of the centre. The Nidhi also gives financial assistance in a small measure to promising Sarvodaya Centres of work like the Sarvodaya Grama Samithi in Chathannur.

Bharat Sevak Samaj

The activities of the Bharat Sevak Samaj started on a small scale in the Quilon District in 1953. It was only in 1955 that the organisation was established on a firm footing. Several new units and committees were set up in different parts of the District for strengthening the organisation. In 1963 there were 73 registered units (village branches) and 17 unregistered units of the Bharat Sevak Samaj in the District. There were active committees of the B.S.S. in 9 Blocks. At the District level the B.S.S. has a District Committee, an Administrative Committee and a Camp Committee to carry on its manifold activities. It is given representation on thé District Development Council and on all the Block Development Committees.

A Lok Karya Kshetra (Rural Development Project) is functioning under the auspices of the Bharat Sevak Samaj in the Vettikavala N.E.S. Block with headquarters at Kulakada. Formally opened in September 1960 it has organised three co-operative societies including an Artisans Society and 15 Mahila Samajams with Nursery classes three of which have their own buildings. Another L.K.K. sanctioned for the District in the Chadayamangalam N.E.S. Block has started work in 1963. A

Construction Service Committee with technical experts is working in the District and a few works have been taken up by it, the most important of which is the construction of Sadanandapuram—Vettikavala road costing about Rs. 45,000. Other works undertaken are the Irrigation channel works at Veliyam and the construction of the school building in the Harijan colony at Kulakada. A large number of Mahila Samajams, Nursery Schools, Craft centres, Reading rooms, Libraries, Adult Education centres etc. are also functioning under the auspices of the B.S.S. Free milk obtained from the CARE is being distributed through local village units to the needy children. A large number of sanitary type of latrines have been distributed in co-operation with the Development Department. Cultural Programmes are also given due importance. A Plan Information Centre is working in Kottarakara. It collects and disseminates information to the people, besides organising study classes and seminars. To educate the villagers on the need for public co operation in the successful implementation of the C.D. Programme, the Samaj has organised one-day camps and seminars in all the Blocks. To impart training to students and youth in the C.D. Programme about 60 Labour and Social Service Camps were organised by the Samaj in different parts of this District since its inception and more than 4,000 young men and women were given training. Camps for teachers and rural youth including an Organisers Training Camp at the Extension Training Centre, Kottarakara have also been conducted.

The Ushagiri Samoohya Sevana Trust

This was established at Chathannur in 1956 in order to help the poor working class people who live in this area. Its administration is conducted by a President and Secretary with the help of a Committee consisting of 7 persons elected by the members. The Trust runs a *Sisuvihar*, *Balavihar* and a Library. In 1960-61 there were about 35 children in the *Sisuvihar* and 40 in the *Balavihar*. In the *Balavihar*, there are also facilities for in-door and out-door games for children of 5—16 year group. The small library containing a few Children's books caters to the needs of the children of the *Balavihar*. The income and expenditure of the Trust in 1960-61 were Rs. 5,879 and Rs. 5,853 respectively. It receives financial aid from the Central Social Welfare Board. The remaining expenses are met by contributions from the enlightened public.

Vanitha Samoohya Seva Samithi, Pallickal

Established in 1957 this organisation runs a Nursery School. A Craft class and a sewing class are conducted under its auspices. It also maintains a kitchen garden and conducts an arts club. In 1960-61 it had a membership of 525. The income and expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 1.470 and Rs. 1,462 respectively. The N.E.S. Block and the Central Social Welfare Board give financial aid to the Samithi.

Y. W. C. A. Pathanamthitta

Established in September 1958, the Y.W.C.A. Pathanamthitta tries to secure the religious, social and economic welfare of the women and children of the locality. There were 22 members in it in 1961. It conducts a Nursery School, weekly meetings, hospital visits etc. The expenses of the Y.W.C.A. are met from the income accruing from membership fees, public donations and grants from the Social Welfare Board.

Grameena Padhasala, Adinad

This is located in Adinad North in Karunagapally Taluk and was established in 1956. The administration of the *Padhasala* is conducted by a Committee consisting of 7 members elected from among the members of the general body. Its aim is to serve the cause of pre-primary education. In 1960-61 there were 62 pupils in the *Padhasala*. Milk and Mid-day meals are given free of charge to all children. Independence and Republic Day Celebrations are conducted every year with the customary distribution of sweets to children.

Gramodharana Social Welfare Centre, Madathikarazhma

In 1955 the centre was established at Madathikarazhama in Krishnapuram Village, Karunagapally taluk. In 1960-61 it had 105 members on its rolls and an income of Rs. 5,202. It runs a *Balwadi* class where there were 52 children. Free mid-day meals were given to all the children. The centre helps the local people in learning mat-weaving which is the main handi-craft here. It also conducts a weaving class, and an adult literacy centre.

Social Welfare Children's Health Centre, Kottarakara

This was established in 1959. Its aim is to safeguard the health of children, and to give them proper education, food and clothing etc. The Centre runs a Nursery School and also helps a few *Mahila Samajams* by supplying free medicines. In

1960-61 about 1,500 children received free melical aid at the centre. It also supplies free milk to 100 children every day. Moreover, the members conduct house visits, and give instruction to parents in child protection, cleanliness, diet habits, public hygiene etc.

Karimpallur Local Arts and Sports Club

Established in 1956 at Meenambalam, in Kalluvathukal village of Quilon Taluk, the club conducts classes in Music, Painting, Dance, *Kathakali* and *Yogasana*. In 1961 it had 75 members and an income of Rs. 1,000.

Social Welfare Extension Projects

The Vettikavala, Chavara and Konni Welfare Extension Projects of the State Social Welfare Board are functioning in the Quilon District. The Vettikavala Project comprises of 7 centres viz., Vettikavala, Melila, Pangode, Kulakada, Mailam, Pavithreswaram and Vilangara; the Konni Project of 8 centres, viz. Mangaram, Kumbazha, Athumbankulam, Lakkur, Kummannur, Kalleli, Valliyani and Kodumukku, and the Chavara Project of 8 centres, Puthukodu, Koilthottam, Thekkumbhagom, Padinjatterikara, Chavara, Panmana, Arinallur and Kollaka. The Projects cater to the social needs of the children and women of the rural areas. They have organised *Mahila Samajams* within the Project areas in order to enable them to take up the activities of Project Centres at the time when they will be handed over to the public.

Y. M. C. A., Quilon

The Quilon Y.M.C.A. was established in 1924. In 1961 it had 216 members including 16 inmates in the Hostel. The Hostel conducted by the Y.M.C.A. is one of the least expensive boarding and lodging houses in Quilon town. The Association had the privilege of running an Urban Welfare Extension Project during the Second Five Year Plan with a grant of Rs. 17,000 but it could not be continued as the plot on which it was run had to be given up to the owner. The Y.M.C.A. building is on an 80 cent plot of land given by the Government in the heart of the town. It is putting up a new building estimated to cost about Rs. 2 lakhs. Out of this a sum of Rs. 87,000 will be met by the Buildings for Brotherhood of the International Y.M.C.A. of United States and Canada. The rest is being raised locally. With the completion of the new building the Y.M.C.A. will be in a position to give additional accommodation to 30 students

and 30 working men. The Y.M.C.A. has also plans for starting a Poor Boys' Home.

Y. M. C. A, Punalur

The Young Men's Christian Association of Punalur was established in 1125 M.E. (1949-50). In 1962 it had 77 members and its income came to about Rs. 1,000. It was affiliated to the Council of Y.M.C.As. of India and Ceylon in 1959. Like other organisations of its kind it is also engaged in cultural and educational activities for the betterment of the people in general and the Christians in particular.

The Rotary Club, Quilon

Established in 1949, the Rotary Club has been doing very active work in the field of voluntary social service in Quilon. In furtherance of the ideal of service which is the primary object of Rotary, it has placed community service in the forefront of its activities. It is out of the funds raised by the Rotary Club that a beggar home is being run in Quilon by a committee of the public and the Municipality. Scholarships have been instituted and a number of poor students are being helped and maintained by the Rotary Club, Quilon. Pencillin and ice are being supplied free to the local hospital for the benefit of poor patients. Free medicine and treatment are also being offered to the poor T.B. patients, the expenditure thereon being met from out of the funds of the Club. The Club is maintaining an Young Folk Library in its premises which is found to be very popular with children. It has also undertaken a scheme for the uplift and amelioration of the fishing community living in Moodakara and the neighbourhood. In 1961 the Rotary Club, Quilon celebrated its 12th Anniversary, and in that year it held an All India Industrial Agricultural and Arts Exhibition in Quilon the proceeds of which are to be used for the construction of a Public Stadium in the town.

MAHILASAMAJAMS

A large number of *Mahilasamajams* (Ladies Associations) function in different parts of the District. Brief accounts of some of the most important of them are given below:

Pattazhi Mahila Samajam, Pattazhi

The Pattazhi Mahila Samajam was established in November, 1955. It owns a one-acre plot on which is situated a Nursery School Building, a kitchen building, a god well and

a urinal. The furniture and equipment cost more than Rs. 2,500. Moreover, a building costing Rs. 6,000 has been constructed to house an Industrial Co-operative Society which the Samajam has organised. It has provided employment for 22 women and has given coaching to 45 girls in Cutting, Tailoring, Sewing, and Garment-making examinations. The Samajam is receiving aid from the Central Social Welfare Board. It had an income of Rs. 9,706 and an expenditure of the same amount in 1960-61.

Enadimangalam Mahila Samajam

Established in 1955 this *Mahilasamajam* has been carrying on manifold activities in its area of operation. In 1960-61 it had a total membership of 126. The receipts and expenditure of the Samajam came to Rs. 6,987. It runs a Nursery School in a building of its own. In this school there were 44 children, 2 teachers and one Aya-cum-Attender. Free Midday meals are given to poor children of the School. Night classes for illiterate adults are also held. The Samajam also conducts an Arts Club, which helps to develop the artistic talents of the members. It also gives part-time employment to some women of the locality by providing them with *Charkas*, thakli etc. Classes in tailoring, needle-work, garment-making, etc., are held. Bee-keeping is also being carried on by the Samajam. A kitchen garden is cultivated near the Nursery School.

Kamala Memorial Mahila Samajam, Thazhathu Kulakada

Established in August 1954 this Samajam had 59 members on its rolls in 1960-61. During the same year it had an income of Rs. 35,883.56 and an expenditure of Rs. 35,628.69. The Samajam is doing good social work. It runs a Nursery School, a Children's Library, a Women's Arts Club and an Adult Literacy Class. In 1960-61 the Nursery School had 87 pupils. It is under a Headmistress who is Nursery trained teacher. The Children's Library contains 1170 volumes in all and it is divided into three sections—children's section. women's section and general section. The Arts Club makes arrangements for the performance of such arts as *Ottamthullal, Thiruvathirakali, Kambadi*, etc., during festival seasons like *Onam*, and *Navaratri*. An Young Men's Sports and Arts Club has also been organised under its auspices. Night classes are also held for illiterate people from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. In these classes instruction is imparted free. The Samajam has also a programme of noon-feeding of children in the Nursery School, infants under one year,

and expectant mothers also being fed with milk powder supplied by the UNICEF. It also gives free medical aid to the people of the locality. In addition, classes in spinning, needle work and embroidery, cutting and tailoring, gardening etc., are held. A kitchen garden is run on a small plot of 5 cents in the Nursery School. Among the other activities of the *Samajam* may be mentioned hand-pounding of paddy, poultry farming and bee-keeping. The Samajam has been getting generous assistance of various sources such as the Central Social Welfare Board, the State Social Welfare Board, the Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom, the N.E.S. Block and the Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Kizhakkemury Mahila Samajam, Pathanapuram

Started in May 1958 this Mahila Samajam had 200 members on its rolls in 1960-61. It runs a Nursery School under the control of an Aya-cum-Attender and milk, biscuits, tonics etc., are supplied to the children. Instruction in cutting, tailoring and embroidery is given at the Craft Centre run by the Samajam. In addition, it runs a Maternity Centre where free medical aid is given. One Midwife and an attender are employed here. A duly qualified lady Doctor visits the Centre twice a week, and on an average 20 expectant mothers are examined and supplied with medicines every week. The Midwife visits houses and gives advice on various subjects relating to health. During the year 1961 the Samajam had an income of Rs. 10,500.53 and an expenditure of the same amount.

APPENDIX I

Detailed results of Elections for Assembly Constituencies. (1960 and 1961)

Number and name of Constituency		General Elections, 1960							General Elections, 1957	
		Total No. of electors	No. of electors who voted	Percentage of columns 3 to 2	No. of valid votes polled	Party affiliation	No. of valid votes polled by candidates	Percentage of total	Party affiliation	No. of valid votes polled
1.	Eravipuram ..	63,087	54,516	86.41	53,974	C.P.I.	25,548	47.3	C.P.I.	19,122
						P.S.P.	23,689	43.9	P.S.P.	8,762
						Ind.	4,260	7.9	I.N.C.	7,467
						Ind.	477	0.9	R.S.P.	5,197
									Ind.	1,163
									Ind.	1,141
2.	Quilon ..	68,117	58,199	85.44	57,879	I.N.C.	25,083	43.3	I.N.C.	20,367
						C.P.I.	18,791	32.5	R.S.P.	12,571
						Ind.	13,734	23.7	C.P.I.	11,817
						Ind.	271	0.5	Ind.	2,154
3.	Thrikkadavur	1,17,317	1,04,703	89.25	2,07,405	I.N.C.	48,618	23.4	C.P.I.	33,782
						I.N.C.	46,244	22.3	I.N.C.	32,596
						C.P.I.	39,719	19.2	C.P.I.	28,602
						C.P.I.	38,860	18.7	I.N.C.	26,193
						Ind.	17,309	8.4	R.S.P.	24,556
						Ind.	16,655	8.0	R.S.P.	19,692
4.	Karunagapally	64.287	58,485	90.97	58,005	Ind.	21,238	36.6	I.N.C.	13,709
						I.N.C.	21,030	36.3	P.S.P.	13,063
						C.P.I.	17,737	27.1	R.S.P.	12,307
									C.P.I.	11,369

APPENDIX I—(*Contd.*)

Number and name of Constituency	General Elections, 1960							General Elections, 1957	
	Total No. of electors	No. of electors who voted	Percentage of column 3 to 2	No. of valid votes polled	Party affiliation	No. of valid votes polled by candidates	Percentage of total	Party affiliation	No. of valid votes polled
5. Krishnapuram	62,471	56,290	90.11	55,830	P.S.P.	28,247	50.6	C.P.I.	23,963
					C.P.I.	27,583	49.4	I.N.C.	14,493
								P.S.P.	6,707
								R.S P.	1,462
6. Kunnathur	1,17,101	1,06,533	90.98	2,09,591	I.N.C.	51,101	24.4	C.P.I.	41,569
					C.P.I.	49,253	23.5	C.P.I.	37,321
					C.P.I.	48,931	23.3	I.N.C.	29,389
					P.S.P.	48,805	23.3	I.N.C.	25,982
					Ind.	5,295	2.5	R.S.P.	11,698
					Ind.	973	0.5	P.S.P.	10,542
					Ind.	425	0.2	R.S.P.	8,092
					Ind.	245	0.1	P.S.P.	5,136
7. Kottarakara	63,670	58,198	91.41	57,529	P.S.P.	27,909	48.5	C.P.I.	23,298
					C.P.I.	25,741	44.7	I.N.C.	14,807
					Ind.	3,216	5.6	R.S.P.	7,101
					Ind.	663	1.2		
8. Chadayamangalam	59,412	52,768	88.82	52,107	C.P.I.	25,412	48.8	C.P.I.	19,375
					P.S.P.	25,290	48.5	P.S.P.	9,143
					Ind.	1,405	2.7	I.N.C.	6,663
								R.S.P.	2,082
9. Pathanapuram	72.850	67,483	92.63	66,830	I.N.C.	35,136	52.6	C.P.I.	24,499
					C.P.I.	30,601	45.8	I.N.C.	14,440
					Ind.	751	1.1	P.S.P.	9,973
					Ind.	342	0.5	R.S.P.	1,109

10.	Punalur	56,840	51,227	90.12	50,695	C.P.I.	26,415	52.1	C.P.I.	20,455
						I.N.C.	23,042	45.5	I.N.C.	16,366
						Ind.	1,238	2.4	R.S.P.	1,130
11.	Ranni	67,020	59 601	88.93	59,339	I.N.C.	34,560	58.2	I.N.C.	23,308
						C.P.I.	24,426	41.2	Ind.	20,722
						Ind.	353	0.6		
12.	Pathanamthitta	72,972	65,821	90.20	65,374	P.S.P.	36,660	56.1	C.P.I.	29,081
						C.P.I.	28,194	43.1	I.N.C.	21,353
						Ind.	520	0.8		

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Achencoil (Pathanapuram Taluk) (9° 05′ North Latitude and 77° 05′ East Longitude)

One of the most important pilgrim centres sacred to Lord Sastha in the District, Achencoil is fifty miles away from Punalur and has an area of 198 acres and a population of 401 (1951 census). The journey to Achencoil, unlike the pilgrimage to Sabarimala, is performed exclusively by car along a good motorable road. A part of the road from Mekkara to Achencoil passes through dense forests. The rush of devotees to this shrine is ever on the increase. The pilgrims who come not only from all parts of the District but also from the neighbouring Districts of Madras State carry with them all those things required for divine service in addition to articles for food needed en route.

During the festive scenes marking the *Mandala Pooja* in the month of *Dhanu* (December-January) the shrine shines in its full radiance and splendour. The festival lasts for fifteen days. The image of Sastha affords a magnificent sight, especially when decorated with colourful costumes and ornaments and holding in hand the everbright shield and sword, the weapons to guard against the wild life in the forests. Another important festival is held here on the day of *Revathi* asterism in the month of *Makaram* (January-February). The two notable features of this festival are the *Therottam* (car festival) and the *Pushpabhishekam* (offering of flowers). In no other temple in South India are flowers offered to the deity so lavishly as at Achencoil. The image of Sastha here is supposed to have been installed several centuries before the Christian Era. According to the *Keralolpathi* it is one of those Sastha temples established by Parasurama with the object of guarding the newly created country.

There are many interesting places near Achencoil like Karuppancoil, Amman Kavu etc., which fascinate the visitor. Near Mekkara is located the *Kottavasal* where Karuppaswami,

one of the guards of Lord Sastha, is guarding the fort of Achencoil at its gate. Flowing through the middle of this village is also a river called Pallivasal which affords a picturesque view to the visitor. There is a Police Out-Post at Achencoil.

Adur (Kunnathur Taluk) (9°05′ North Latitude and 76°45′ East Longitude)

Headquarters of the Adur Revenue Division and the Kunnathur Taluk, Adur is situated twenty-eight miles away from Quilon town. According to the 1951 Census it had a population of 13,745. Being the administrative headquarters of a Revenue Division a number of public offices are located here. The most important of them are the Revenue Divisional Office, the Taluk Office, the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Sub Divisional Magistrate's Court, the Munsiff's Court, the Police Station, the Sub-Registry Office, the Assistant Educational Office etc.

The only Junior Technical School in Quilon District is located at Adur. Besides two Government High Schools, one for boys and another for girls, there are two private High Schools, viz., the N.S.S. High School and the St. Mary's High School for Girls. Adur has a Government Hospital and a Government Ayurvedic Dispensary. A few miles away is Paracode-Anantharamapuram public market—one of the biggest markets in Kerala. The important days for the market are Monday and Thursday. Paracode is also the headquarters of the Paracode N.E.S. Block. Adur has also a vegetable market held twice a week and a cattle market held once every month. The Kodumon Rubber Plantations are located nearby. The Rest House maintained by the Public Works Department at Adur is situated on the roadside, seven furlongs away from the 18th milestone on the Kayamkulam-Pathanapuram road. Besides a temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, the place has a church and a mosque.

Anchal (Pathanapuram Taluk).

Anchal is located at the 4th mile on the road from Ayur to Kulathupuzha and is 8 miles south of Punalur, the headquarters of the Taluk. It is known for its cattle market held twice a month. There is also a vegetable market held twice a week. These two markets attract huge gatherings and transact heavy business. There are two cashew processing factories here.

There are three High Schools here, two run by private agencies and one by the Government. The two private High Schools are the Anchal High School situated in the heart of the village and the Channapetta High School situated about five miles south in Alayamon village. The Government High School is functioning in Yerur village. Among the institutions of the place worth mentioning are a printing press, a grant-in-aid Ayurvedic dispensary, Forest Range Office, Post Office, Village Office and the Allopathic Dispensary. There is a festival called *'Mudi'* in the Bhagavathi temple here. It is conducted once in every 12 years.

Ariankavu (Pathanapuram Taluk).

One of the important pilgrim centres in Quilon District, the mountainous village of Ariankavu is twenty-two miles east of Punalur on the Quilon-Shencottah road and has a railway station bearing the same name. The present village is a new one which was formed after the reorganisation of States in November 1956 when certain portions of the erstwhile Shencottah Taluk were given to Kerala State. It has an area of 5,716.96 acres and a population of 5,138 according to the 1951 census. The place is well known for a mountain pass of the same name. Before the present road was laid and the railway system was introduced the Ariankavu pass served as the chief trade route for merchants from either side of the Ghats. When the railway was extended from Tirunelveli to Shencottah and Quilon the natural mountain pass was more or less followed, but the rugged terrain, however, necessitated the opening of tunnels. And of the five or more tunnels the tunnel at Ariankavu is the longest (over half a mile). The railway line through this tunnel was opened for traffic in 1904.

Before the introduction of the railway Ariankavu was the habitat of the denizens of the forest. The mountain scenery from the pass is breath-takingly attractive with rolling hills and valleys covered with dense undergrowth and tall trees so typical of a wet tropical country. The cobalt-blue sky specked with snowy clouds provides a natural canopy. The pass itself is not very high, being only 650 feet above sea level.

The Ariankavu pass, though at present fallen into disuse, was once associated with the pepper politics of the State. Early in the 16th century the Portuguese were building a fort somewhere near Quilon when the Portuguese captain heard that 5,000 bullock cart loads of pepper which had been bartered for an equal number of loads of rice were being taken through the

Ariankavu pass by merchants of the East Coast. Angered because the pepper had not been given to him, the Captain demanded the Rani to stop the transit and hand over the pepper to him. The Rani refused to concede the demand whereupon the Captain engaged some soldiers to seize the loads by force, and even offered fifty rupees for every human head brought back to him. The soldiers brought back all the pepper and the heads of five merchants. The horrible incident struck terror into the minds of the merchants and thenceforward this pass was seldom used by them as a trade route.[1]

Three miles away from Ariankavu there is a heavy waterfall known as Palaruvi at an altitude of 300 feet and there are also smaller cascades nearby. This particular area is likely to become a tourist centre. But the chief attraction of Ariankavu is the shrine dedicated to Lord Sastha. Thousands of pilgrims flock to this temple during the *Mandala Pooja* and the *Thrikalyanam* festivals in December. Formerly before the *Mandala Pooja* at Sabarimala came into prominence the pilgrims visited this temple instead of Sabarimala. The legend relating to the origin of the temple and the festivities associated with it is given below.[2]

The legend connected with the temple begins with the early days of Sastha, born of Siva and the Mohini form of Vishnu. Mohini, exulting over Sastha's perfection and beauty of form, took the Child to Siva, but He disappeared leaving the divine Child and its Mother in the forest. Mohini, in turn, abandoned the Child in the forest, leaving it to its own fa.s and disappeared. Now the Pandya King who happened to see this lonely Child took it to his capital and brought it up with great devotion. But the King's consort was not pleased with this unwelcome usurper, and she was secretly plotting for his death. One day she pretended to be laid up with severe head-ache and requested the King to get her some leopard's milk (പുലിപ്പാൽ) which alone could cure her of the disease. But none of the King's followers dared to venture this hazardous attempt and the King was in a dilemma. The brave boy who was no other than Sastha, undertook this fatal and dangerous attempt, and He at once started for the thick forest on this side of the Ghats. He soon returned to Madura leading a number of leopards like tamed dogs, and the onlookers were struck with wonder at the daring and superhuman act of this young boy It is said that on His way back with the leopards the young boy took some rest at the place now called Puliyur near Tenkasi and that the place owes its name to this famous event. On His way from Puliyur to Madura, the young boy was tired

1. See also Chapter II.

2. Quoted from the magazine *Chaitraprabha* (Thulam 1124) published by the Travancore Devaswom Department. See pages 91-94 of the publication.

and unable to proceed on account of hunger and thirst. He therefore went to a hut nearby and requested an old woman who was living there, to give Him food and drink. The good-natured woman gave Him food and drink and the disguised Sastha, pleased with her charity, promised to grant her a boon. But the pious old woman who had the least suspicion about the identity of her guest informed the Lord that her only desire was to see him happy. The Lord who was surprised to hear this unselfish desire promised to be the servant of the old woman and the good-natured people of the locality, and resumed his journey to Madura.

Soon the Lord reached Madura and the King and his followers were surprised to see the young boy leading a number of ferocious leopards before him like harmless domestic animals. The Queen was disappointed in her treacherous plot and was ashamed of herself. Now the King began to entertain a doubt that the young boy whom he was bringing up as his fond son had something of divinity in Him and he expressed his ardent desire to know the full particulars about Him. But the Lord insisted on returning to the Ghats to leave the leopards there and soon started for His destination. The King followed Him, and the two reached the dense forest near the site where the temple now stands. The Lord established Himself there, and allowed the King to act likewise. The places where the Lord and the Madura King established themselves since came to be known as Thiru Arienkavu and Indala Appencoil.

It is believed that during the early days of the Lord in the court of the Madura King, His favourite companions were a few Sowrashtra Brahmins and that He married 'Purna' who was a member of that community. Even now, the members of the community have great faith in, and devotion for, the deity installed here, and during the annual Mandalapooja festival in the temple many Sowrashtra Brahmins from Madura come to the temple as Sambandhies or relatives. During the last eleven days of the festival they are given sumptuous meals and special facilities for their stay there in memory of the Lord's marriage from that community. On the forty-first day, crowds of Sowrashtra Brahmin women assemble in the *Kalyanamandapa* with *Ashta Mangalya* in their hands and take an active part, in the *Thirukalyanam* ceremony celebrated on that day.

The Mandalapooja festival referred to in the foregoing paragraph is the most important festival connected with the temple. The grandest functions connected with the festival, the Pandyan Mudivu (പാണ്ഡ്യൻ മുടിവ്) the Thirukalyanam and the Kumbhabhishekam, are celebrated on the last three days. The Pandyan Mudivu is celebrated to keep alive the tradition that the King of Madura presented to the Lord a large sum of money (പണക്കിഴി) on the occasion of His wedding with Purna During the festival, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims especially from Madura and the neighbouring places, resort to the temple for worship and receive the blessings of the sublime Being installed there.

The temple has an underground passage below the *Nalambalam* leading to the Indala Appancoil, and it is believed that till recently the priest used to go to the above shrine and offer *poojas* during the *Mandala Pooja* festival.

The image of a beautiful woman holding a lamp in her hand adjoining the *sanctum sanctorum* represents Mohini. The temple has many sculptures of *dwarapalakas* and devils. The walls of the *Srikovil* are embellished with murals depicting stories such as *Palazhi mathanam* in which Vishnu in His Mohini form serves the divine nectar, Mohini's romance with Siva, the birth of Sastha, the Pandya Raja coming to the ghats for hunting and taking the infant Sastha to the court, the Sastha leading a number of leopards and His *samadhi* etc.

Ariankavu has a Police Out-Post. Situated as it is on the border of Kerala and Madras States there are also check posts here to prevent illicit inter-State transport of goods.

Chavara (Karunagapally Taluk) (8° 55′ North Latitude and 76° 30′ East Longitude)

A village on the sea-board, a seat of the mineral sands industry and a flourishing commercial centre, Chavara is nine miles north of Quilon on the Alleppey-Quilon road. The Travancore Minerals Ltd., Chavara and F. X. P. Minerals (Private) Limited, have been the major mineral companies here. Thousands of tons of mineral sands are exported annually to foreign countries by these companies. The Premo Pipe Factory is situated near Chavara.

Within the Chavara Panchayat comes the small port of Koilthottam. This port is an open roadstead and there are no landing facilities here. There is no passenger traffic at this port. Steamers are worked at the anchorage. Cargo is transported from shore to steamers using small canoes and sailing vessels. The Quilon-Alleppey road and the Chavara canal are very near the port. The only export item from this port is the Ilmenite sand, the chief export markets being the U.K. and the U.S.A. The port is under the charge of the Port Conservator, Koilthottam.

There are five temples, a church and a mosque in Chavara. The annual festival in the Arakkal temple known as *Makara Vilakku* is held on the 1st *Makaram* (January) with programmes such as instrumental music, vocal music, *Vilpattu,* etc. In the Kottamkulangara temple there is a festival which takes place on the 10th and 11th *Meenam* (March-April). An interesting feature of this festival is that men dress themselves as women and carry lamps (*Talappoli*). This is a time honoured custom which has persisted through the decades. A few miles north of Chavara is Panmana where Chattambi Swamikal, the famous

spiritual leader, attained *'Mahasamadhi'* on *Medom* 23, 1099 (May 5, 1924). The disciples of the Swamikal set up here an *Asramam* and built a temple named *Bhattarakeswaram*. The place today attracts a large number of visitors and devotees. At Panmana there is also a School for Sanskrit studies—the S.B.V. Sanskrit High School.

The chief markets in Chavara are the Palakadavu market, Thattaseril market, Thannimoodu market and the Kottakada market. All these markets deal in fish and vegetables and are held daily.

A Police Station, a Sub-Registry Office and a Primary Health Centre are located at Chavara. For the promotion of sports and reading habits two organisations are functioning here—the Gramodharana Bala Samajom and Arts and Sports Club and the Desabhimani Library located at Thekkumbhagom, Chavara South.

Enathu (Kunnathur Taluk) 9° 05′ North Latitude and 76° 45′ East Longitude)

A village five miles from Adur, Enathu has an area of 1295 acres and a population of 2,420 (Census 1951). There are three churches, a temple and a mosque here. The mosque is called "Kalamala" and it is an important place for the Muslims. The *Chandanakudam* in this mosque is a popular annual festival. Two primary schools and three Ayurvedic institutions are functioning at Enathu. The village has a Nursery School too, viz., the Jayabharatha Nursery School. A Sub-Registry Office is functioning here with effect from June 1, 1962. There is also a Police Out-Post. Processing of cashew is the main industry of the place.

Karunagapally (Karunagapally Taluk) (9° 00′ North Latitude and 76° 30′ East Longitude)

Headquarters of the Karunagapally Taluk and the Karunagapally N.E.S. Block, Karunagapally is seventeen miles north of Quilon and linked with the latter by rail and road. It is an important railway station on the Trivandrum-Ernakulam railway line and has a population of 7,419 (1951 Census). It was formerly the seat of the Rajas of Karunagapally. Patanayarkulangara which forms part of the town was once the military station of the Kayamkulam Rajas. An idol of the Buddha called *Pallikkal Puthrachan* so called because it was recovered from a tank known as Pallikkalkulam in nearby

Maruthurkulangara can be seen installed in front of the Karunagapally Taluk Office. The town has a temple dedicated to Lord Siva, two old mosques (*Vadakke Palli* and *Thekke Palli*) and a Mar Thoma church as well.

The most important public offices in Karunagapally are the Taluk Office, the Munsiff's Court, the First Class Sub-Magistrate's Court, the Sub-Registry Offices (Principal and Additional), the Assistant Educational Office, the Police Station etc. Among the other notable institutions of the place may be mentioned the Secondary Health Centre, the T.B. Clinic, the Ayurveda Hospital, a private High School, the Lalaji Memorial Library and Reading Room and the Karunagapally Town Club.

Near the *Kadavu* there is a public market though a daily market has a bigger assembly of buyers and sellers on Mondays and Thursdays. The P. W. D. Camp-shed in Karunagapally is situated just behind the public market, viz., a mile from the railway station on the Patanayarkulangara-Sasthamcottah road.

Konni (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

A beautiful village with meadows, wood and purple hills as an enchanting background, Konni is situated on the Achencoil river eighteen miles away from Punalur. It has an area of 6,644 acres and a population of 10,397 (1951 Census). Elakolloor is the headquarters of the Konni N.E.S. Block. There is a Divisional Forest Office at Konni. Elephants from the Reserve Forests are trapped and tamed at Konni. The place is dotted all over with pepper and clove farms. Sugar cane is also cultivated here on a large scale. Konni is also a centre of the tea and oil crushing industries as well as of rattan work.

The K.K.N.M. High School, the Republican High School and St. George High School, Attachakal are the three private High Schools in Konni. There are three libraries here. A Primary Health Centre and a Sub-Registry Office are located here. There is also a Police Out-Post. About six temples and twenty-eight churches are also situated at this place.

Kottarakara (Kottarakara Taluk) (8° 55′ North Latitude and 76° 45′ East Longitude)

Headquarters of the Kottarakara Taluk and the Kottarakara N.E.S. Block, Kottarakara is linked with Quilon by road and rail, the distance between them being 17 miles or 27 Kilometers. It covers an area of 9,910 acres and has a population

of 28,218 (14,109 men and 14,109 women) according to the census of 1951. It was once the capital of the Elayadathu Swarupam, a principality which was ruled by a branch of the Travancore Royal Family. In 1734 Kottarakara and the regions around were captured by Marthanda Varma (1729-1758). The Kottarakara royal family was taken captive and brought to Trivandrum. One of the princesses of the family, however, managed to escape. It was at this time that the Dutch were trying to secure a foothold in Kerala for the sake of trade in spices including pepper. On the initiative of the Dutch the throne of Elayadathu Swarupam was restored to the fugitive princess. Marthanda Varma was enraged at the Dutch support and in a battle that followed the Dutch were beaten back. The helpless princess was again in flight, and this time farther north to Cochin where she became a pensioner of the Dutch.

It is significant to note that the internationally famous dance-drama of Kerala known by the name *'Kathakali'* had its small beginnings and debut in this town and it flourished for a long time under the patronage of a Raja of Kottarakara who lived in the first half of the ninth century of the Kollam Era.

Kottarakara has an old temple dedicated to Lord Ganapathi and a church belonging to Mar Thomas and built by the Raja of Kottarakara for the Thekkedathu Christian family. This church is about seven hundred years old. Cashewnut processing and rattan work from the main industries in the town. The public market dealing mainly in fish, vegetables and stationery is a daily affair.

The important public offices in the place are the Taluk Office, the Office of the Executive Engineer, Kallada Project Division, the Assistant Educational Office, the Police Station, the Sub-Registry Offices (Principal and Additional), the Sub-Court, the Assistant Sessions Court, the Sub-Magistrate's Court (First Class), the Sub-Magistrate's Court (Second Class), the Munsiff's Court, etc. An Extension Training Centre functions here. There is a departmental Training School and among the High Schools three are run by private agencies and one by Government. In addition to the Taluk Headquarters Hospital and the T.B. Clinic, an Ayurvedic Dispensary is also functioning here. The Rest House is situated half a mile from the Kottarakara Railway Station. As the two important highways to the north and the east run by along the town, Kottarakara has become a centre of busy motor traffic.

Kozhencherry (Pathanamthitta Taluk) *(9° 20′ North Latitude and 76° 40′ East Longitude).*

A fairly well-developed village with a population of 5,426 (1951 census) Kozhencherry is situated eight miles from Pathanamthitta, on the banks of the Pamba river. The nearest railway station is Chengannur eight miles away. A mammoth religious convention known as the "Maramon Convention" is held in the month of *Kumbham* (February-March) every year on the river bed at Maramon near Kozhencherry and it attracts a large number of Christians from all over India. The Convention is held under the auspices of the Marthoma Syrian Evangelical Association formed as early as 1888. The actual spot where the convention is held is in the Mallapuzhassery village of Pathanamthitta taluk. It is allotted every year by the District Collector, Quilon, at a fixed rent of Rs. 100 to the Evangelical Association for the conduct of the Convention. Incidentally, the Maramon Convention is the biggest religious gathering of the Christians in Asia. The Marthoma Church, Kozhencherry, is an imposing edifice.

The St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry, is an Arts and Science College and it is the second one to be set up in the Pathanamthitta Taluk. The St. Thomas High School and the St. Mary's Girls High School are the two Secondary Schools here. The Marthoma Church runs an Industrial Centre at Kozhencherry. An Assistant Educational Office and a Police Out-Post are located here. There are two Government medical institutions in the place—the Government Hospital and the T.B. Clinic Seal Ward. The P.W.D. Camp-shed here is located on the Kumbazha-Kozhencherry road. Kozhencherry is the most flourishing market in the Pathanamthitta Taluk for agricultural products.

Kulathupuzha (Pathanapuram Taluk)

With evergreen landscape as the picturesque background and drained by the river bearing the name of the village, Kulathupuzha is on the 40th mile of the Trivandrum-Shencottah road and is six miles south of the Thenmala Railway Station. The village covers an extensive area of 1,09,519 acres and has a population of 3,554 (1951 census.)

The Kulathupuzha valley is bordered by high hills on three sides. The main hill range runs in a north to south direction towards the eastern end of the valley. A large number of spurs take their origin from it and run to the west sloping

gradually to the middle of the river basin. The eastern extremity is impregnable being full of rugged terrain and gorges through which numberless rivulets stream down to the wooded plains. Kulathupuzha is an important forest range in the District and it is from the forest reserve that the Kulathupuzha river rises, formed of seven perennial streams. The forest range is also well known for its elephants. Reed, an essential raw material for the manufacture of paper at the Punalur Paper Mills, is partly supplied from the Kulathupuzha valley.

One of the renowned shrines dedicated to Lord Sastha is found here and large crowds of pilgrims come for worship during festival seasons. The *Vishu Mahotsava* in *Medam* (April May) is the most important festival here. The fishes called 'Eatta' found in the Kallada river near the temple are supposed to be of divine nature and the pilgrims to the temple give them rice etc. In this temple is a tongueless bell, made of *Panchaloha* (five metals), the peculiarity of which is that it rings when the ridge is rubbed with a rod. Besides the Sastha shrine there are three mosques. A Government allopathic dispensary and a Police Station are functioning here. There is also a High School called A. P. Ninan Memorial High School. A vegetable market is held every Sunday. The Kulathupuzha Rest House is situated on the road to Ayur.

Kundara (Quilon) Taluk (8° 55′ North Latitude and 76° 40′ East Longitude)

A hub of modern industry, Kundara is linked with Quilon by rail and road, the distance between the two places being nine miles. It is situated on a white cliff overlooking the palm-fringed Ashtamudi lake. According to the census of 1961 it has a population of 20,945 and is one of the three towns of this District. Large deposits of china clay discovered here have helped the establishment of the Ceramic industry. The Government Ceramic Concerns and the Kerala Government Ceramics are the two important firms working in this field. The Aluminium Industries Ltd. (ALIND) Kundara is one of the leading Indian firms manufacturing aluminium cables. It has built a modern steel wire plant with Japanese technical collaboration. The other major industrial concerns in Kundara are the Electrical and Allied Industries (Travancore) and the Lakshmi Starch Factory.

The Kundara railway station is between Quilon and Kottarakara and on the Quilon-Shencottah railway. One can take

a shorter route to Trivandrum if one travels by the branch road leading from Kundara across to the Main Central Road, saving thus the time required for a travelling distance of at least eight miles. One of the premier institutions in Kundara, the London Mission Hospital with which the name of Dr. Somerwell was long associated, still preserves its renown and popularity. Once an obscure village from the point of view of education, Kundara can now boast of a Government High School, two private High Schools and a private Training School. An Assistant Educational Office, a Sub-Registry Office and a Police Station are functioning here. The ancient Syrian church here belongs to the Jacobite community. In addition, there are two other churches and a temple.

Kundara is famous in history as the venue from where Velu Thampi Dalawa issued in 1809 what has come to be known as the "Kundara Proclamation".

Kunnicode (Pathanapuram Taluk)

An important village of the Vilakudi *pakuthi* Kunnicode is situated six miles west of Punalur, the headquarters of the Pathanapuram taluk. It has a population of 1,792 (1951 census) and an area of 800 acres. The nearest railway station is Avaneeswaram. The chief attraction here is the Pachilakunnu, a small hillock. A Muslim Saint is said to have breathed his last on this hillock and on this place is planted a *pala* tree.

There are three temples, three mosques and a church in Kunnicode. Near Devi Vilasam High School in Thalavoor is the Bhagavathi temple which attracts large crowds during the four day's festival in the month of *Kumbham* (February-March). There are two public markets in Kunnicode, viz., the vegetable market and the cattle market. The vegetable market is held twice a week, but the latter is more important and held twice a month during which period the streets of this peaceful village seem almost impassable with the surging crowds of men and cattle assembled here. A good number of cashew processing factories can be found in this village. There are two private High Schools here—the Devi Vilasam High School at Thalavoor and the Mannom Memorial High School at Vilakudi. A grant-in-aid Ayurvedic Dispensary is situated a furlong from the Kunnicode junction. There is also a Police Out-post here.

With the opening of the Muttathukadavu bridge in August 1962 over the Kallada river near Pathanapuram the distance

between Pathanapuram and Kunnicode has been reduced from 14 to 5 miles, thereby facilitating the quick movement of motor traffic.

Manjanikara (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

An attractive village situated on an eminence Manjanikara is three miles west of Pathanamthitta. It has an area of 480 acres and a population of 1,593 (1951 census). It is a prominent place of pilgrimage to certain sections of Jacobite Syrian Christians as it contains the sepulchre of Mar Ignatius Elias III, Patriarch of Antioch, who visited Kerala in February 1932. Thousands of devotees flock to this place to make offerings at the tomb of the Patriarch and offer prayers in February every year. The village has two temples and three churches. There are two Primary Schools, a Middle School and a High School. Cotton weaving and pottery are the main industries in the village. Two markets are functioning here.

Mannadi (Kunnathur Taluk)

About eight miles from Adur, Mannadi is a village situated near Kadampanad. It is historically famous as the place where Velu Thampi, the gallant Dalawa of Travancore, spent his last days. There is an ancient Bhagavathi temple here which contains some interesting stone sculptures. The Ucha Bali festival in this temple in the month of *Kumbham* (February-March) attracts large crowds of devotees from the surrounding areas. A peculiarity of this temple is that no offering of rice is made to the deity. Adjacent to it is another Devi Temple which is of comparatively recent origin and is now under the management of the Pattazhi Devaswom. Within a few yards from both these temples once stood the house of the Chennamangalam Pottis in which Velu Thampi Dalawa is believed to have attained martyrdom. A one-room concrete structure has been erected by the local public at this spot as a memorial to the Dalawa. A sword is kept inside the memorial and a wick lamp is lit every day. The memorial is called *Velu Thampi Smaraka Kalari*. It was opened on 28th Makaram 1128 (10th February 1953) corresponding to the date of the year of the martyrdom of Velu Thampi. It may be added that Makaram 28 is celebrated by the local public every year with due solemnity.

Mannadi has also other memorials to Velu Thampi, viz., Velu Thampi Smaraka Upper Primary School and Velu Thampi Reading Room. It has a Nursery School as well.

Mayyanad (Quilon Taluk) (8° 50′ North Latitude and 76° 35′ East Longitude)

A sprawling village of 1,961 acres, Mayyanad has a population of 7,264 (1951 census). It has a railway station of the same name and is six miles south of Quilon. Mayyanad is the birth place of C. V. Kunjuraman (1871-1949) one of the leading literary, social and political figures of modern Kerala. The locality is noted for its shrines and temples. Of the nine temples scattered all over the place the most important is the one at Umayanallur dedicated to Lord Subramonya. The shrine is said to have been installed and consecrated by Sri Sankaracharya of Kaladi. The annual festival in the temple falls in February-March. Tradition has it that the temple once belonged to the Buddhists and that it was converted into a Hindu temple by the Hindus who took it by force. During one of her eventful escapades Umayamma Rani took refuge in this temple. Half a mile from the temple site there is a place called *Patanilam* which used to be the military training ground of the Venad rulers. Besides the temples there are three churches and a mosque.

Mayyanad has a Primary Health Centre and many Ayurvedic Dispensaries as well. There are three Primary Schools, a Middle School and a High School. Cotton weaving and oil pressing are the main occupations in the village. Two private markets dealing in fish and vegetables are functioning here.

Moozhiyar (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

Moozhiyar is in the interior of the Reserve Forests and lies to the east of Perunad village. The Sabarigiri Hydro-Electric Project works are being executed in the vicinity of the place. Only two years ago the entire area was dense forest where jungle trees flourished in the heavy rainfall, wild birds circled over the craggy sharply dropping hills and elephants, bison and tigers roamed about freely. But today the scene has changed and the place is developing rapidly. Roads have been carved laboriously out of the rocks and forests and thousands of men are hard at work, crushing rock, laying mortar and building a great hydro-electric power system which will double the capacity of the State grid and make Kerala electricity-rich with even surplus power by 1967. Visitors to Moozhiyar can accommodate themselves in the Inspection Bungalow which is being maintained by the Kerala State Electricity Board.

Neendakara (Quilon Taluk)

Neendakara presents an alluring landscape with its rows of jostling palms and country crafts and steam boats plying out from the beautiful Ashtamudi lake into the sea, for it is here that the lake joins the sea and a bar is formed. A pretty long bridge (1,338 ft.) spans the bar (*Azhi*) here. The Ashtamudi lake is so called because it branches off into eight creeks, the extreme length and breadth of the lake being 10 and 9 miles respectively, and the area 20 sq. miles. The scenic beauty here has earned for the Ashtamudi lake the sobriquet, the "Loch Lomond" of Kerala.

Situated about six miles from Quilon, Neendakara was once a busy port. The Chinese traders who frequented this inlet exchanged their wares for pepper. Neendakara was a port of call especially for the Chinese vessels sailing to and from the Levant. The ubiquitous Chinese fishing nets used in the backwaters of Kerala and found here are also the outcome of the predominant Chinese influence prevalent here during the early centuries of the Christian era.

As a first step towards tapping the fishing potentialities of the Neendakara region an Indo-Norwegian Fisheries Community Development Project was launched here in 1953. The Project has worked well and its attempts at modernising the fishing industry by introducing streamlined mechanised boats in the place of the old crude type of *valloms* and erecting storage plants have met with great success. Due to deep sea fishing the annual catch is also increasing. The Boat building yard at Sakthikulangara, the Fishermen's Training Institute, the Ice Factory and the Refrigeration Plant—all these as part of the Indo-Norwegian Project have given to Neendakara a premier position in the fishing industry in India.

In order to improve the health and sanitary conditions of the population of the coastal village a Health Centre was recently established here. The Centre consists of a T.B. Clinic, a Maternity and Children's Ward, a Preventive Clinic, two Curative Clinics and a Family Planning Centre. In addition there is a grant-in-aid Ayurveda Dispensary.

In view of the natural and topographical advantages obtaining here the Government are considering a proposal to develop the Needakara estuary into a sheltered lighterage port.

Oachira (Karunagapally Taluk)

Twenty one miles north of Quilon and six miles from Karunagapally, Oachira is located on the National Highway. It has a population of 6,392 according to the Census of 1951. A well known Hindu pilgrim centre Oachira is the seat of an ancient and famous temple. The peculiarity of this temple is that there is no temple building as such, nor is there any idol (*Pratishta*). The presiding deity is considered as *Parabrahmam*, and to him people irrespective of caste and creed have turned for prayer even from very early times. Chronic patients are accustomed to offer worship here to get rid of their afflictions. It is a custom in this temple not to use cooked food for offering *Nivedyams* to the deity. The temple administration is carried on by a representative body. A *Bharana Samithi* or governing body of 172 members is elected from 52 *Karas* in the neighbourhood. The *Bharana Samithi* elects from among its own members a Working Committee of 61 members, and the latter in its turn elects an Executive Committee of eleven in order to attend to the day to day affairs of the temple.

Oachira draws thousands of pilgrims for its *"Oachira Kali"*, a festival held in the temple annually between 1st *Mithunam* and 2nd *Mithunam* i.e., in the middle of June. Another festival held here is the *Karthika Vilakku* from the 1st *Vrischigam* to the 12th *Vrischigam*, i.e., November-December. It is also called *"Panthrandu Vilakku"* it lasts for 12 days. About a lakh and half of people attend the festival. The most interesting feature of the *Oachira Kali* is the mock fight in commemoration of the battles fought with sword on the spot by the Kayamkulam and Chempakaseri Rajas. The festival is accompanied by a largely attended fair which converts this quiet town into a mammoth bazaar for several days. What took place a few decades back in connection with the *Oachira Kali* is thus described by a writer in the *Malabar Quarterly Review*.[1]

"Only Nairs could take part in it; of course it is not open to women. It is now conducted on the first and the second days of Mithunam or Auny (June-July). For seven days beginning with the first, it is popularly believed that there will be incessant rain. On the first day the fight is conducted from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and on the second from 12 to 3 p.m. The appearance of a kite hovering in the air summons the players to arms. But in these 'degenerate

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1 Quoted in *History of Kerala*, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, Vol. IV, pp. 373-74.

days; no such divine approval is shown. Each player is well dressed in the native fashion and armed with the apology of a sword and a shield. The combatants do not fight in pairs but in sets. The parties advance towards each other; they perform a number of movements, forwards and backwards, commencing with a single individual on each side. The movements are first slow, but they become quicker and quicker. These resemble the movements of assault and retreat in regular warfare. The kite appears again and this time it is the signal for the tournament to stop. The same programme is repeated on the second day. Stones were thrown from slings to the detriment of public peace".

Modern requirements having necessitated a change in the manner in which the festival is celebrated, the Travancore Government stopped all sorts of violence and gave it a turn in a new direction. Now not only Nairs but people belonging to other castes also participate in the mock fight. In addition to the mockfight and the fair, a cattle show and an industrial exhibition with popular lectures on agricultural subjects have also been started recently and ere long the whole thing bids fair to become an institution of material advantage to the local community.

Now for the religious element we may once more quote the writer in the *Malabar Quarterly Review*.[1]

"The games are attended by an immense throng from all the neighbouring country. To the east of the play-ground stands a roofless enclosure of wooden framework set with hundreds of primitive brass or iron lamps. Those are lighted on the two festive days. It might rain cats and dogs; the heavens might thunder; the winds might blow a hurricane and tear down the neighbouring trees; but not a single lamp would go out on these days; at any rate, that is what credulous old folk would make us believe. This, they hold is an infalliable proof of the sanctity of the Bhagavathi, the presiding deity of the neighbouring temple. It is worthy of note that no image is enshrined in that room-like wooden framework. On a raised floor in it are placed a conch-shell, the horns of a deer and a drawn sword. The offerings to the deity consist of heaps of *pori* (fried paddy), bunches of plantain fruits and pieces of burning camphor. This is perhaps the only instance of a place of worship among the Hindus on the West Coast where veneration is paid to no image. Among the worshippers might be found all sorts and conditions of men, from the Brahman to the Panchama. Several sets of native musicians assemble and wait for custom in the neighbourhood. By way of propitiating the deity, any votary might order a party of them, for a trifle, to play a course of music to the accompaniment of the drum. If you be an ardent *Bhakta* you pay someone for a

1 Quoted in *History of Kerala*, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, Vol. IV. pp. 374-75.

"holy roll" round the sacred enclosure. Pandarams or professional Bhaktas could be hired for half an anna to lay by religious merit on your behalf. Religious fervour makes up for all the inconvenience caused by the gnawing winds and the beating rains which are characteristic of the season of the year on the Malabar Coast in which the festival is celebrated. Farmers and tradesmen of the neighbourhood take advantage of this occasion to hold an annual fair on an extensive scale".

Oachira is an important handicraft centre in the District. Fancy articles of screwpine mat like handbags, tea cosies, hats, lunch sets, belts, purses, wall hangings, etc., with neatly embroidered designs are manufactured here.

Oachira has a public library. Among the associations and clubs in the place mention may be made of the Kasturba Social Welfare League, the Poor Dispensary and Orphanage Association at Kappil East and the Mahatma Gandhi Asram at Krishnapuram. A Sub-Registry Office and a Police Out-post are located here. The N.S.S. Medical Mission has opened a Hospital here in 1963. Oachira has a Railway Station as well.

Omallur (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

The village of Omallur has a population of 25,315 according to the Census of 1951 and an area of 8,412 acres. There is a Sastha temple here which contains six inscriptions three in Malayalam, two in Telugu and one in Tamil. The festival in the temple falls on the day of *Uthram* asterism in the month of *Medam* every year and it last for ten days. The temple has some interesting sculptures. The place is famous for the cattle fair which is held in March every year. Poultry farming, cotton weaving, coir making, bee-keeping and rattan work are the chief occupations of the local people. Omallur has a Nursery School and a grant-in-aid Ayurvedic dispensary.

Paravur (Quilon Taluk) (8° 45′ North Latitude and 76° 40′ East Longtitude).

An important fishing centre Paravur is a railway station on the Trivandrum-Quilon railway line and is eight miles south of Quilon. This coastal village has an area of 12.75 sq. miles. It is the birth place of K. C. Kesava Pillai (1868-1913), and Kesavan Asan (1869-1917), two of the leading literary figures of this District. The Paravur lake close to this village is a small lake, but due to its proximity to the sea and unforeseen changes in weather like the imminence of land breeze, it is not always safe for canoes to ply on this lake. Yet brave young men can be seen cruising on this lake briskly, braving all dangers not for the sake of adventure but simply to earn

their daily bread. It is at the Paravur lake that the Ithikara river empties itself. The place where the lake meets the sea is called *pozhi*, where shoals or banks are sometimes formed. On occasions flood tides overflow into the lake and cause it to rise by an average of about two feet. The extreme height of this tidal rise is three feet and the current flows at the rate of about two and a half miles an hour.

Paravur has a Sub-Registry Office and a Police Station. An Ayurvedic grant-in-aid *Vaidyasala* is functioning at South Paravur. A private market dealing in vegetables and fish is functioning here daily.

Pathanapuram (Pathanapuram Taluk) (9° 05′ North Latitude and 76° 50′ East Longitude).

An important trading centre situated on the banks of the Kallada river Pathanapuram is eight miles away from Punalur, the Taluk headquarters. According to the 1951 census it has a population of 11,050. The headquarters of the Pathanapuram N.E.S. Block is situated near the Muttathukadavu bridge which is about one mile from the Pathanapuram junction. Of the two privately owned Training Colleges in the District one is located here, viz., the Mount Tabor Training College. There is also a High School called St. Stephen's High School. A Primary Health Centre, an Assistant Eduactional Office and a Sub-Registry Office are located here. There is also a Police Out-post. A vegetable market held twice a week and a cattle market held once a month add to the importance of the town as a trading centre. The P.W.D. Rest House at Pathanapuram is situated on the Kayamkulam-Punalur road. An important local festival is the *Chandanakudam Mahotsava* of the Muslims which is celebrated every year in the month of Kumbham (February-March) in the mosque situated near the Rest House.

With the construction of the Muttathukadavu bridge in 1962 the importance of Pathanapuram has increased in all spheres. Near the bridge is now located the factory called 'Moda Chemical Industries' for the production of sago. A Timber Depot of the Forest Department is also situated one furlong away from Pathanapuram junction on the road to Kunnicode.

Pathanamthitta (Pathanamthitta Taluk) (9° 15′ North Latitude and 76° 45′ East Longitude).

Headquarters of the Pathanamthitta Taluk, Pathanamthitta has a population of 5,846 according to the census of 1951. It stands 432 ft. above sea level. The nearest railway station is Chengannur, 16 miles away. The Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta, crowning the top of a hillock across the field, is an Arts and Science College. In addition to the Government High School there are three private High Schools —the Catholicate High School, the St. Mary's High School and the M.T. High School. The Government Dispensary and the Itinerant Dispensary are the two Government medical institutions in the place. A Departmental Ayurvedic institution is also functioning here. The First Class Sub-Magistrate's Court, the Second Class Magistrate's Court and the Munsiff's Court are the legal institutions in Pathanamthitta. The offices of the District Educational Officer and the Executive Engineer, Pamba Project Division, are located here. There are also a Sub-Registry Office and a Police Station. A public market is held here twice a week. The chief commodities sold are vegetable and fish.

A large number of pilgrims to Sabarimala take their route through Pathanamthitta and their number has increased considerably in recent times with the opening of a new route through Chalakkayam, near the holy Pamba which is about 42 miles from Pathanamthitta. Sabarimala is only five miles from Chalakkayam.

Pattazhi (Pathanapuram Taluk)

According to the 1951 census Pattazhi *pakuthi* has a total area of 9,794 acres and a population of 18,352. It is the seat of an ancient temple dedicated to Bhagavathi. The festival called *mudi* is the major *utsavam* in this temple. The temple is also famous for the Pattazhi Copper Scroll dated 1796 to which reference has been made in Chapter II. Rattan work, Match industry and coir manufacturing are the main industries in this area. A Government Dispensary and a High School are functioning here.

Perumthenaruvi (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

Perunthenaruvi is famous for the waterfall on the Pamba situated about eight miles above the confluence of the Kakkad river with the Pamba at Peerumedu. The water flows down the rocky bed into a ravine sixty to one hundred feet deep. The place is so called because of the existence here of clusters

of bee-hives in early times. This attractive place can be reached by taking the route through Vechoochira.

Punalur (Pathanapuram Taluk) (9° 00′ North Latitude and 76° 55′ East Longitude).

The headquarters of the Pathanapuram Taluk, Punalur is one of the most important industrial centres of Kerala. It is twenty-eight miles (forty-six kilometres) from Quilon on the Quilon-Shencotta railway line. Situated on the Kallada river the town has a very temperate climate.

The Punalur Paper Mills and the Travancore Plywood Industries have earned for Punalur a niche in the industrial sphere. The only one of its kind in Kerala and started as early as 1888 the Paper Mills has grown to its present stature as the locality has the chief raw material and abundant water supply. The Plywood Industries produce tea chests, panels, both commercial and decorative etc. Punalur is a chief trading centre in luscious pineapples which are sent to different parts of the country. A few kilometres from here is the Midland Fruit & Vegetable Products Ltd. One of the biggest vegetable markets in the District, the Sree Ramavarmapuram Market, is held every Monday and Thursday.

The Suspension Bridge spanning the Kallada river in Punalur is the only one of its kind in South India and is 400 ft. long. (consisting of three spans; one 200 ft. long and the other two 100 ft. each). As this bridge erected in 1877 is found to be not strong enough to cope with the mounting flow of passenger and goods traffic with increased tonnage in recent years—usually the wooden planks are broken whenever a heavy vehicle passes by—a scheme for the construction of a modern bridge parallel to the Suspension Bridge is under consideration. There is also a railway bridge nearby.

Among the temples at Punalur is the recently dedicated one to Lord Ayyappa at Sasthankonam on the road to the Paper Mills. The annual festival in this temple—"*Makara Vilakku*"—is held on the 1st Makaram, i.e., in January. Interesting programmes such as *Kazhcha, Sreebali, Petta thullal*, *Deepakazhcha*, *Mathaprasangam, Ottam Thullal, Kathakali*, etc., form part of the grand festival. In addition there are the ancient temples dedicated to Lord Krishna, Lord Siva and Goddess Bhagavathi. The Puthiyedathu Sri Krishna Swami temple attracts worshippers during the days of the

Mandalapooja. Grand functions attached to the *Chirappu* festival during the 41 days from 1st Vrischikom (November-December) to the *Mandalapooja* day, attract huge crowds. Ashtami Rohini is also an important festival here during which time the function called *'Uriadi'* is conducted. The Bhagavathi temple is called 'Bharanikavu'. Meenabharani which is the common festival of the place is conducted here. This attracts a large crowd. People come in procession with all their *'Kettukazhchas'* from each *kara* to this temple on the day of Bharani in the month of Meenam. During the night there are grand functions. From that day onwards the festival called *'Thottampattu'* begins and is conducted for 41 days consecutively. Each day's function is conducted by private parties with grand subsidiary functions. The Siva temple is also an important one. The Sivarathri festival here attracts a large number of worshippers.

There are two Roman Catholic churches here, one of which bearing the name "the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsels" is situated on an eminence near the market and the other, the St. George Church, crowns a hillock on the right bank of the Kallada river. There is an old mosque in the heart of Punalur.

Overlooking the Kallada river is the P.W.D. Rest House having a suite of four rooms. Just behind the Rest House there is a part-time Meteorological Observatory which registers data on wind, temperature and rainfall.

Punalur, being the headquarters of Pathanapuram Taluk, there are several institutions here such as the Taluk Office, Sub-Registry Office, Munsiff's Court, Sub-Magistrate's Court, Post Office, Divisional Forest Office, Assistant Educational Office, Circle Inspector's Office, Police Station, Panchayat Inspector's Office, Panchayat Office, State Transport Office with garage, Labour Office, Welfare Office, Assistant Engineer's Office, Government Hospital, Veterinary Dispensary etc. The 66 K.V. Electric Sub-Station at Punalur is one of the two main Sub-Stations in the Quilon District, the other being at Kundara.

Punalur is a banking centre, the chief banks being the State Bank of Travancore and the Canara Syndicate Banking Corporation. There is a Taluk Bank run by the Pathanapuram Taluk Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 598. There are two Cinema theatres here. There is a good library run by the Punalur Panchayat in the heart of the town. There are 5

private printing presses at Punalur. There are also several private dispensaries, Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic.

The Punalur Railway Station is one of the main Stations in the Southern Railway. It is a halting and watering station. Water is largely stored in huge tanks here by pumping it from the Kallada river which flows about a mile east. The Punalur Paper Mills have their godown here. This Railway station is the gateway for the huge hill produce and other articles such as pineapple, products of Paper Mills, Plywood Factory, etc. Timber transport is one of the main businesses. Several varieties of goods are also imported through this Station.

Punalur is also a rubber business centre as there are a large number of rubber estates here.

There are three High Schools here:—1. H. S. S. Punalur, 2. Chemmanthoor High School and 3. N. S. V. H. S. Valacode, Punalur. All of them are mixed schools run by private agencies.

Quilon Town (Quilon Taluk) (8° 50′ North Latitude and 76° 35′ East Longitude)

Headquarters of the Quilon District and the Quilon Taluk, the Municipal town of Quilon has a hoary past. It was an international emporium of trade and even now a prosperous commercial town. Forty-four miles north of Trivandrum with which it is linked by road, rail and backwater, the town stands on the Ashtamudi lake. with its belt of palm trees and picturesque promonteries of red laterite and china clay. According to the census of 1961 it has a population of 91,018 and the town limits extend to an area of 6.3 sq. miles.

The origin of the Quilon town called 'Kollam' in Malayalam perhaps goes back to the period prior to the beginning of the Kollam Era which is believed to have derived its name from its association with the place.[1] From very early days the Phoenicians, Arabs, Persians, Greeks, Romans and Chinese frequented the port of Quilon. Detailed information on these early commercial contacts with foreign countries has been given in Chapter II. Special mention may, however, be made here of Chinese trade contacts with Quilon. Embassies seem to have been exchanged between the rulers of Quilon and China. It seems that there was a flourishing Chinese settlement at Quilon.

1 See Chapter II where the different theories regarding the origin of Quilon town and Kollam Era have been discussed in detail.

Merchant Sulaiman of Siraf in Persia, who visited Malabar in the middle of the 9th century, found Quilon to be the only port in India touched by the huge Chinese junks on their way from Canton to the Persian Gulf. Quilon was then considered to be the chief port of call between China and Western India. Many pieces of Chinese brass have been collected from here now and then and they also reveal that the Chinese influence on this coast has been more pronounced than that of any other eastern power.

Several foreign travellers visited Quilon in the early and medieval periods. Marco Polo, the great Venetian traveller, who held a prominent post in the Chinese service under Kublai Khan in 1275 visited Quilon and other towns on the West Coast in his capacity as a Chinese mandarin.[1] Quilon was one of the early centres of Christian activity in Kerala. According to tradition two Nestorian Bishops Mar Sapor and Mar Peroz from Babylon reached Quilon about A. D. 822. They were allowed to build churches and shops, and thus a fairly big Nestorian community settled down here. It is said that the present town of Quilon was built by the Syrian merchant Sapir Iso in the ninth century of the Christian Era.

A host of Christian missionaries came here in the fourteenth century. Friar Jordanus of Severic came to Quilon in 1324 and undertook missionary work among the Nestorians. He was subsequently nominated Bishop of Kaulam (Quilon), latinised as Kolumbum in 1330. He is considered to be the Bishop of the first Roman Catholic see in India. It was he who built the St. George's church in Quilon.

Almost at the same time Quilon was visited by the great African traveller Abu Abdullah Mahomed, better known as Ibn Batuta. A prolific writer of the age he describes Quilon as "one of the finest cities in Malabar with magnificent markets and very wealthy merchants." By this time Calicut had already become a great rival to Quilon. The trade with the West, Arabia, Egypt and Venice was absorbed by Calicut, but that with the East, and Malacca in particular, rested with Quilon.

In 1347 Quilon was visited by Marignolli of Florence, the Papal Legate, who was on his way to Europe from China. He has described Quilon as "the very noble city of Columbum where the whole world's pepper is produced." He lived for over a year at Quilon and preached in the Latin Church of

1 For details see Chapter II.

St. George founded by Jordanus and got one hundred gold fanams every month as his tithe. Nicolo Conti, the Venetian noble who reached *Coloon* (Quilon) in the earlier part of the fifteenth century calls it "a noble city the circumferance of which is twelve miles."

The first Europeans to establish a trading settlement at Quilon were the Portuguese who came here in 1502. The Portuguese factory and fort were captured by the Dutch a century and a half later. By 1795 the Dutch position in Quilon was supplanted by the English. In pursuance of the treaty of 1795 between the British and Travancore a British garrison was stationed at Quilon. During Velu Thampi's revolt there was fierce fighting here between the Travancore troops and the British garrison stationed here. Velu Thampi Dalawa did much to improve the town. He built new bazaars and invited merchants from Madras and Thirunelveli to settle down here. Public offices, palaces and temples were also constructed. Till 1830 Quilon continued to be the seat of the Government of Travancore, the Huzur Cutcherry and the British Residency being located here.

There are few historic remains in the town today. Once a city of palaces, Quilon has been known to the outside world by the time honoured proverb, "If you saw Quilon, you would need no home any more". The old Maharaja's palace stands out boldly at a hill overlooking the Ashtamudi lake at Thevally. Chinnakada, one of the busiest centres of the town, presents a curious blending of the old and the new. Within the railway compound stands an old palace (which today houses the Railway Primary School) facing which is a rectangular modern structure housing a number of shops. The clock tower in Chinnakada is relatively modern; it was erected in 1944 out of public contributions in memory of a prominent public figure, K. G. Parameswaran Pillai. Five cannons of the old pattern are kept as a monument at the Cantonment Maidan.

Quilon became a railway station as early as 1904 when it was linked with Thirunelveli. The railway link with Trivandrum was established in 1918 and that with Ernakulam in 1957. The Collectorate or the Civil Lines situated two miles from the railway station is a streamlined square and three-storeyed building housing all the District offices including the office of the Collector. A few Central Government offices are also located in the town. The courts located in Quilon are the District and Sessions court, District Magistrate's Court, the Sub-Divisional

Magistrate's Court, the Sub-Magistrate's Court (Second class), the Sub-Court, the Munsiff's Court and the Village Panchayat Court. There is a Municipal Park near the Collectorate. Construction of a model park at the Kochupilamood beach side is in progress. The Government is considering a proposal to improve the Thirumullavaram Beach so as to attract tourists. There is a Childrens' Park in the vicinity of the Municipal buildings at Thevally. Under the Municipality seven radio sets are in operation in different parts of the town. A Poor Home managed by the public of Quilon is situated in the heart of the town. At Asramam there is an open ground said to have been improvised as a temporary air strip during the last war.

For the convenience of tourists there is a Government House under the supervision of the State Tourist Department. The First Class P.W.D. Rest House having four commodious and well-furnished rooms is located 2 furlongs from the Quilon railway station on the left side of the Quilon-Shencotta road and north of the railway skew bridge (*Kunjammapalam*). An annexure to this Rest House has been recently opened. There is also another Travellers' Bungalow under the Kerala P.W.D. In addition, there is a chain of private hotels serving the needs of the travelling public. There is no proper underground drainage system in the town, but a comprehensive protected water supply scheme has recently been worked out. The Quilon Water Supply Scheme formally inaugurated on February 6, 1963 provides for the supply of good drinking water to Quilon town from the fresh water lake at Sasthamcotta.

The affairs of the Quilon town are managed by a Municipality. The town is divided into thirty wards for the purpose of administration.

Along with Calicut and Alleppey, Quilon ranks as an important industrial, commercial and trading centre. One of the oldest and largest firms in Kerala—Messrs. Harrisons & Crossfield Ltd., was established in Quilon in 1900 when a large factory was built for the preparation of green tea for the American and Russian markets. In course of time the firm undertook all kinds of business including tile making, saw mills and a great importing and exporting organisation. The United Electrical Industries located at Pallimukku, the Quilon Pencil Factory and the Parvathi Cotton Mills are also important industrial concerns. The town and suburbs have a heavy concentration of cashew factories. In fact, the world market of cashewnuts is being controlled from here. Kilikollur near Quilon is

today a very important centre of the cashew industry, and in view of the large concentration of cashew workers here the place has come to be classified as a town in the census of 1961. Cotton mills, tile industry, timber, saw mills, oil mills, pottery, etc., are some of the other major industries flourishing in Quilon. Chamakada is the business centre with the Big Bazaar (*Valia kada*) and the Small Bazaar (*Chinnakada*) coming next in point of activity. It is believed that *Chinnakada* was once a predominant Chinese pocket in the town bearing appropriately the name *Cheenakada*, viz., Chinese Bazaar. But the turn of the sixteenth century saw the gradual disappearance of the Chinese hold here when the Arabs and Muslims in general dealt a blow at Chinese trade with the assistance of the Zamorin of Calicut.

The Quilon Port is an open roadstead on the Arabian sea. There is a signal station and a flag-staff at the port for transmitting messages to ships. The port is under the charge of the Port Conservator, Quilon. The main export from this port is cashew kernels and the principal item of import is cashewnuts. Raw cashewnuts are imported from Africa. After processing, the cashew kernels are exported to the U.S.A. and North Atlantic ports. There is no passenger traffic at this port. The port of Quilon lost its premier position as the chief commercial centre when Calicut and later Cochin rose into prominence. There are also ample facilities for inland water transport. There are seven markets in the town maintained by the Quilon Municipality.

The Quilon town contains a number of good temples, all built in the traditional ornate style typical of Kerala architecture. Anandavalleeswaram, a part of the town, has derived its name from the temple dedicated to the Goddess Anandavalli. The place was once known as Anandeswaram after the presiding deity in the temple. In the days of Velu Thampi Dalawa an image of Goddess Anandavalli was consecrated in the temple. According to another version, the consecration of this Devi took place earlier, i.e., during the reign of Raja Kesava Das. Adjacent to the Anandavalleeswaram temple is the Rameswarathu temple where the annual festivals *Palli vetta* and *Arat* are held in January. The origin of the temple at Asramam is shrouded in legend. It is believed that the place must have been the shelter or *asramam* of a sage in olden days. Even now there is a grove at the western side of the temple called Munikkavu. According to the legend there was a very wealthy

Brahmin in Kunnathur taluk called Kalakkattu Potti. As he was childless he gave away the lion's share of his wealth in charity. One day, while his garden was being tilled, the tool struck a stone from which blood oozed out. He was advised by an astrologer that if that stone was removed to the *asramam* of the sage and worshipped there daily, he could get a son. Accordingly, a temple was erected at the present spot and the black stone was consecrated there. At Erattakulam near Kilikollur there is a Krishna temple. The Karunallur Kavu temple which enshrines Goddess Bhagavathi is situated at Perur and the festival here is celebrated in *Kumbham* (February-March). The temple at Thirumullavaram on the coastal side is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The Mukathala temple dedicated to Lord Murari (synonymous with Sri Krishna) celebrates its annual ten-days festival in *Medam* (April-May).

Quilon is an important centre of Syrian Christians and Latin Catholics. There are a number of churches including the Catholic church at Mangad. The Pallichira church was established about 1700 A.D. The town has also a large Muslim population. One of the oldest and the most important of the mosques in the town is the Chinnakada Palli. The Valiakada Arikada mosque which is about 3 centuries old was renovated in 1962. The Karbala Maidan located about two furlongs east of the Quilon Railway Station is an open air ground where the Muslims generally assemble on important religious occasions and say prayers.

Quilon does not lag behind any other town or city in the State in the field of education. The Government High School for Boys is the oldest departmental High School in the town. A new Government High School has sprung up at West Quilon also. The present Girl's High School has the reputation of being one of the oldest Malayalam High Schools. Being a centre of Christian missionary effort Quilon owes a great part of its educational progress to the work of Christian missionaries. Among the Schools started by missionaries, the most important is the St. Aloysius High School, founded sixty-five years ago, by Rev. Ferdinand Ossi, the Carmelite Bishop of Quilon. The Craven (L.M.S.) High School situated near the railway station and Krist Raja School which now serves as the Model School for the new Training College in Quilon, are the other important High Schools in the town.

Among the Colleges, the Sree Narayana College, the premier institution for higher education in the town, was founded in

1948 by the S.N.D.P. Yogam in the name of Sree Narayana Guru. A separate college for Women was started alongside this college in 1951. The Fatima Matha National College situated to the east of the Sree Narayana College was opened in 1951. Besides these three Arts and Science Colleges there is the Karmela Rani Training College managed by the Roman Catholic diocese of Quilon. In the field of technical education also the town has made immense progress. The Sree Narayana Trusts have started a Polytechnic at Kottiyam in 1957. Kilikollur, once on obscure suburb (a railway station on the Quilon-Shencotta line), can today boast of the first Engineering College to be started in any district in the State in the private sector. This college is under the patronage of Thangal Kunju Musaliar, a prominent industrialist of the District.

There are a large number of hospitals and dispensaries--allopathic, ayurvedic and homoeopathic—in the town. Of these the Victoria Hospital for women and children is the oldest. Next comes the Quilon District Hospital. There is a missionary hospital named Holy Cross Hospital at Kottiyam which runs a well-equipped Nursing School, with the aid of West Germany. Under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme there are two dispensaries located at Asramam and Pattathanam. In the private sector there is the Kasturba Memorial Nursing and Maternity Home. Of the three Ayurvedic Hospitals one is located in Quilon. In addition, there are three grant-in-aid Ayurveda Dispensaries.

The Quilon town has a number of clubs and associations of which one of the most important is the twelve year old Rotary Club which took the lead in holding the mammoth All India Industrial Agricultural and Arts Exhibition at Quilon in 1961. The proceeds of this Exhibition are to be used for the purpose of constructing a big stadium in the Cantonment *Maidan* which is centrally situated in close proximity to the Schools and Colleges and is also accessible to other institutions in the District by rail and road. This *Maidan* whch was originally a military camp where troops had been stationed until 1900 is today a centre of recreation and athletic activities. The Rama Varma Club, named after Sree Mulam Thirunal Maharaja of Travancore, is situated at Thevally on the road to the Palace and on the northern side of the Government High School for Boys. The Ashtamudi Boat Club is a mixed club situated at Asramam on the banks of the Ashtamudi lake. The Quilon Athletic Club, the Police Club, etc., are the other important

clubs in the town. Mention may also be made of the various associations dotted all over the town such as Sree Narayana *Vanitha Samajam,* Quilon, the Coastal Youngmen's Society, Wady, Quilon, the Quilon District Sri Gandhi Gramoday Sangh, Kasthurba Ashram, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Kerala Sevaka Samajam, Kerala Mussayin Mustern Samajam, Quilon Taluk Mahila Samajam, Kerala Yuvajana Sanghom, Poletode, Kairalee Mahila Samajam and Quilon Town Harijan Vanitha Samajam, Cantonment Ward.

Ranni (Pathanamthitta Taluk)

A flourishing market centre for hill produce, Ranni is connected by a thirty-four mile road to the Punalur railway station. It has an old church belonging to the Knayana Syrian Christians, situated on a rock overhanging the river Pamba. A manuscript Bible written in Syriac was presented by the authorities of this church to Dr. Claudius Buchanan early in the century for preservation in the British Museum.

The headquarters of the Ranni National Extension Service Block and the Ranni Forest Division are at Ranni. There are five High Schools here run by private agencies. A Primary Health Centre, a Government Dispensary, an Assistant Educational Office and a Sub Registrar's Office are also located here. The Kerala Library, the Vivekodayam Public Library, Maddapuzha, the Desasevini Reading Room and Library, Pazhavangadikkara, the National Library and Reading Room, Aythala, Pinnokka Samudaya Grameena Vayanasala, Vadasserikkara Gramasevini Libraray—all these are situated within the limits of the Ranni N.E.S. Block. There is also a Police Station at Ranni. The P.W.D. Camp-shed here is near the Police Station.

Sasthamcotta (Kunnathur Taluk) (9° 00′ North Latitude 76° 35′ East Longitude)

Headquarters of the Sasthamcotta N.E.S. Block, Sasthamcotta is an attractive village situated about twelve miles from Adur. It is a beauty spot, a health resort and a centre of pilgrimage. The extensive fresh water lake here is said to be the biggest of its kind in Kerala. With the inauguration of the Quilon Water Supply Scheme on February 6, 1963 the waters of this lake are being used for supplying drinking water to the inhabitants of Quilon town. From the very name of the place it can be inferred that Lord Sastha has something to do with it and naturally enough there is a Sastha temple here which is believed to have been founded by Sri Rama. The Travancore

Devaswom Board proposes to set up a Vedic College here for the promotion of theological studies. The place has two High Schools and a Government Dispensary. The Kalabooshanam Grandhasala is situated at Kumaramchira. Besides a Sub-Registry Office, an Assistant Educational Office and a Police out-post are located at Sasthamcotta. There is a Railway Station here. The P.W.D. Camp-shed is located on the right side of the Sasthamcotta-Pattakadavu road and is two and a half miles from the railway station.

Tangasseri (Quilon Taluk) (8° 50′ North Latitude and 76° 30′ East Longitude)

Sprawling over an area of barely 96 acres and jutting out into the sea is the sylvan enclave of Tangasseri nestling among historic ruins. Now an obscure hamlet three miles north of Quilon Town it is to the Quilon District what Anjengo is to the Trivandrum District.

Flanked by the Arabian sea on the west and clumps of coconut trees on the other three sides, this promontory has its romantic historical associations. The Chinese are said to have come here in the early centuries of the Christian era. For a pretty long period Tangasseri was a foreign enclave, changing hands now and then. The first European power to come here was the Portuguese who controlled this area from 1519 to 1661 leaving to posterity some of their forts, cemeteries, and churches. A few factories were also built by them. The Dutch who came later captured the Portuguese forts and strengthened the fortifications of what they called "Dutch Quilon". By the treaty of 1795 Tangasseri became a British possession. Tangasseri along with Anjengo was since then under the administration of the Collector of Tirunelveli until it was leased to Travancore State. Even after this lease the Anjengo District which included Tangasseri was under British control.

According to Logan, the author of the *Malabar Manual* Tangasseri perhaps derives its name from Changachery, once ruler of Quilon, dethroned by Travancore in 1740. He also suggests that *"changa"* means conch and that Tangasseri is probably another name for "conch village". Yet another conjecture made by him is that the name Tangasseri or 'Gold Village' (Tangom = gold) stems from the abundance of gold coins introduced by the Portuguese during their short-lived regime here.

Whatever now remains of history in the small coastal village is scanty and even this is being obliterated piecemeal

by the fury of Nature. Scattered remains of the Portuguese-Dutch forts and cemeteries still exist. But the remaining walls of the fort lining the rocky waterfront are fast disappearing thanks to the turbulent sea. The churches here are pretty old having been established in the 18th century. One of the churches was founded in 1841 by the Archbishop-elect of Cranganore, Dom Manual De Sam Joquim Neves. There is also a Convent here. The present Bishop's Palace was once the residence of the Portuguese Governor.

The chief attraction of the place today is the Light-house which stands as a sentinel warning the sailors of the treacherous reefs of Tangasseri. Built in 1902 and strengthened in 1940 by A. N. Seal, Engineer-in-Chief, Light-house Department, the 144 ft. Light-house is today under the control of the Government of India. The light emanating from a 5,000 Watts bulb is visible at a distance of 18 miles out in the sea. From above the Light-house is visible the surging surf on the one side and a panorama of the lush green coconut palms stretching to the horizon on all three sides with smoking chimneys and furnaces rising in the nature's canopy reminding the visitor that the industrial centre of Quilon is not far off.

Anglo-Indians and Christians constitute the majority of the population, fishing being their main occupation. The two High Schools in Tangasseri are the A. I. High School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School. An Aquarium under the control of the Sri Narayana College, Quilon is housed in an old building here. The village has a library run by the Gandhi Seva Sangh.

Thazhava (Karunagapally Taluk)

Thazhava is an important centre of the screwpine mat industry. An image of the Buddha discovered from a tank known as Pallikkalkulam in nearby Maruthurkulangara, is one of the interesting archaeological relics associated with the Quilon District. A grant-in-aid Ayurvedic dispensary is functioning at the place. Many public and private markets are working here and are an index of the trading activities in the village. The Chettumoola Public market is held daily and trades mainly in tapioca, vegetables, coir, screwpine mats, etc. Three private markets assemble daily and one private market functions twice a week. Besides there is a cattle market coming off every month.

Thenmala (Pathanapuram Taluk) (9° 15′ North Latitude and 77° 25′ East longitude)

Fourteen miles (twenty-two Kilometers) east of Punalur on the Quilon-Shencotta railway line is the hilly village of Thenmala. There are a large number of rubber and tea estates all around. Thenmala is the headquarters of the Thenmala Divisional Forest Office. The village has also a Forest Watch Station. A Government Bi-weekly Dispensary for Allopathic treatment is functioning here. A Government Ayurvedic Dispensary has recently been established. The temple here is dedicated to the deity *Mariamman*. Three miles east of Thenmala is the Kalthurutti market which is held on all Sundays. It is the only market for all the estate people nearby. At Thenmala there is a Railway Station which exports timber from the Thenmala Timber Depot which stocks all kinds of timber in large quantities. Three miles west of Thenmala is a place called Ottakkal where a Match factory is functioning. There is an important mosque also near the factory. Nearby, a mile south of Thenmala junction (where the Quilon-Shencotta road and Trivandrum-Shencotta road meet) there is a place called Parappattu on the way to Trivandrum. It is here that the proposed dam under the Kallada river valley Scheme is to be constructed.

The road to Punalur from Thenmala runs for the first few miles almost parallel to the course of the meandering Kallada river. A traveller strolling along this road can catch glimpses of the breathtaking loveliness of the surroundings about him. On the one side are the rugged and threatening boulders poised on the incline of the hill ranges, and on the other is the gurgling stream, with luxuriant verdure covering all its banks wending its way through treacherous rocks.

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GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

Adangal	Entrusting a piece of work for a fixed wage
Adhikari	Village revenue officer
Anacharam	Irregular custom
Anakkottil	Shed for elephants in front of a temple
Anandaravan	The younger member of a matriarchal family, nephew heir, successor
Anchal	Indigenous postal system
Ashtamangalyam	The eight auspicious things arranged in connection with ceremonies
Asramam	Hermitage
Attiper	Transfer of the jenmi's right by sale
Ayacut	Old land revenue records
Avarnas	Backward class Hindus
Balamandir	Borstal school
Beliyidal	Offering of rice ball for the soul of the dead
Bhasmam	Holy ashes
Chakku	A native mill for oil pressing
Chalamaram	Avenue tree
Chandanakkudam	A festival performed by Muslims
Chaver	Suicide squads
Chitti	An indigenous credit institution
Congee	Gruel of rice
Deepakazhcha	Illumination
Desam	Territorial division, place, locality
Desavazhi	A local chieftain
Dewan	Chief Minister of an erstwhile Indian State
Dewan Peishkar	Formerly District Collector
Dwarapalakas	Gate keepers
Edavappathi	South west monsoon which commences about the middle of Edavam (May-June)
Elaya Tavazhi	Younger branch of a family
Ezhuthupalli	Old village school
Garbbhagraham	The *Sri Kovil* or Inner sanctuary of a temple
Gopuram	Tower, especially of a temple
Gotram	Sub-division
Grandha	Alphabet, old cadjan manuscripts, a book
Grandhavari	Old chronicles or records in cadjan
Harikatha	Narration of Puranic stories relating to Vishnu
Hundi	An indigenous system of banking
Huzur Cutcherry	Secretariat or Chief Government Office
Illam	House of a Nambоothiri or a Malayala Brahmin
Japam	Prayer

Jathakamkoda	Betrothal ceremony at which horoscopes are exchanged in formal settlement of marriage
Jenmi	Landlord
Jenmibhogam	Landlord's share
Jenmikaram	Tax due to the *Jenmi* from the tenants
Kaikottikali	A kind of dancing and singing with clapping of hands
Kalari	Gymnasium
Kalasamithi	Arts Club
Kammal	A kind of ear ring
Kanam	A system of land tenure according to which the tenant holds the land on payment of a fixed amount to the *Jenmi* for a stipulated period
Kanamdar	Holder of land on *Kanam* tenure
Kanapattam	A kind of land tenure
Kanikka	A sum of money presented to a temple as offering to a deity
Kara	The sub-division of a village
Karamozhivu Danam	Land given as gift free of tax
Karanavan	The eldest male member or head of a matriarchal family
Karaler	Tenants of temple lands
Kathaprasangam	Expostion of stories with music and illustrations. A kind of popular entertainment
Kavu	A grove of trees dedicated to snakes and considered sacred
Kayal	A lake or lagoon
Kettu Arutha Panam	Bride price paid by some of the Hill Tribes
Kettezhuthu	A kind of revenue settlement
Kettukazhcha	A temple festival of Central Travancore in which a number of cars or *terus* are used
Korava	Ululations made by women during marriage or other occasions of rejoicing
Koothambalam	A hall or shed where *Koothu* is performed
Koothu	Exposition of a religious story by a Chakkiyar in a temple
Kovil	Palace, Temple
Kudiyan	Tenant
Kuri	See *Chitti*
Kutirakettu	See *Kettukazhcha*
Kuttam	Local assembly
Lehyam	An electuary
Madampi	Chieftain
Mahilasamajam	Women's club
Makkathayam	Patrilineal system of inheritance
Mammatti	Spade used for digging
Mandapam	Platform
Mantravadi	One who erorcises
Maram	Levelling Board (an agricultural implement)
Maraviri	Bark of trees used as cloth
Marumakkathayam	Matrilineal system of inheritance
Mathaprasangam	Religious discourse

Moopan	Headman
Mootha Tavazhi	Elder branch of a family
Mundakan	Winter season crop
Mundu	White cloth worn round the waist stretching up to the ankle
Murappennu	A prospective bride who is the daughter of either the maternal uncle or paternal aunt
Nadakkavu	A road with avenue trees on both sides
Nazhi	A unit of measurement
Neriyathu	An upper garment usually gold laced
Nikhah	Muslim marriage
Nilavilakku	A standing oil lamp
Nritham	Dance
Onam	The national festival of Kerala occurring during the month of Chingam (August-September) every year
Oonjal	Swing
Ottam thullal	Dance-drama
Otti	Mortgage
Padhasala	School
Pakuthi	Village, a unit of revenue administration
Pandal	Thatched shed put up for temporary purposes
Pandaravaka	Belonging to Government
Pansupari	Betel and Arecanut
Para	A grain measure holding ten *edangazhis*
Paramba	Garden land
Patakam	A narration of puranic stories usually performed in Hindu temples
Patanilam	Battle ground
Patta	A receipt
Pattadar	A registry holder of a piece of land
Pattam	A lease
Pattuvaravu	Current accounts
Pooja	Worship, offering of flowers etc. to a deity
Poojari	Priest
Poramboku lands	Unassessed lands which are the properties of Government
Pradakshinam	Circumambulation
Pramani	Chieftain
Prasada	Sandal paste and flowers given to worshippers in temples
Prayaschitta	Atonement for a sin or crime
Provrithicar	Village Officer
Pudava	Cloth worn by women
Punja	Single crop lands which lie submerged in water and are drained off and cultivated once in a year, also irrigated dry lands where paddy is cultivated
Puravaka	Miscellaneous items of revenue
Pushpabhishekam	Offering of flowers
Sabha	An assembly
Salai	Vedic college
Sambamdham	Marriage

Sanchayanam	The ceremony of the disposal of the bones of the dead
Sanketham	Holy precincts of a temple considered inviolable
Sarkara Upperi	Fried slices of banana coated with jaggery
Sarvadhikariakkar	Formerly a Chief Minister
Satram	Wayside Inn, Rest House
Savarnas	Upper Caste Hindus
Sirkar	Government
Sradha	An oblation to the manes of deceased ancestors
Sreekoil	*Sanctum Sanctorum* of a temple
Swamiyar	High priest in a temple
Tachu sastra	Science of Architecture
Talappoli	Ceremony in which girls stand in a row bearing in their palms lighted lamps with rice etc. in plates.
Tali	A neck ornament tied as a marriage badge
Talikettukalyanam	The ceremony of tying the *tali*
Tarawad	A family
Tavazhi	A branch of a matriarchal family descended from a female member
Tharisu	Waste land
Therottam	Car festival
Thiruvathirakkali	A kind of ring dance to the accompaniment of songs
Thirandukuli	A ceremony which is performed when a girl attains puberty
Thorthu	Bathing towel
Uralei	Owners or trustees of a private temple
Utsavam	Periodic temple festival
Vaidyan	A physician following the Ayurvedic system of treatment
Vaidyasala	Dispensary of an Ayurveaic physician
Vallam	Country craft
V 'tezhuthu	A kind of archaic script once prevalent in South India
Vazhiambalam	A rest house on the way side
Vazhivadu	Offering to deity
Velichappadu	Oracle
Viduperus	Rights granted to noble persons by the king
Vidyarambham	Beginning of the study of the alphabet
Viruppu	Paddy cultivated between April and August
Vishu	A festival which falls on the first of Medam (April-May) every year
Vishukaineettam	Gift of money from elders on the day of *Vishu*
Vratham	Fast

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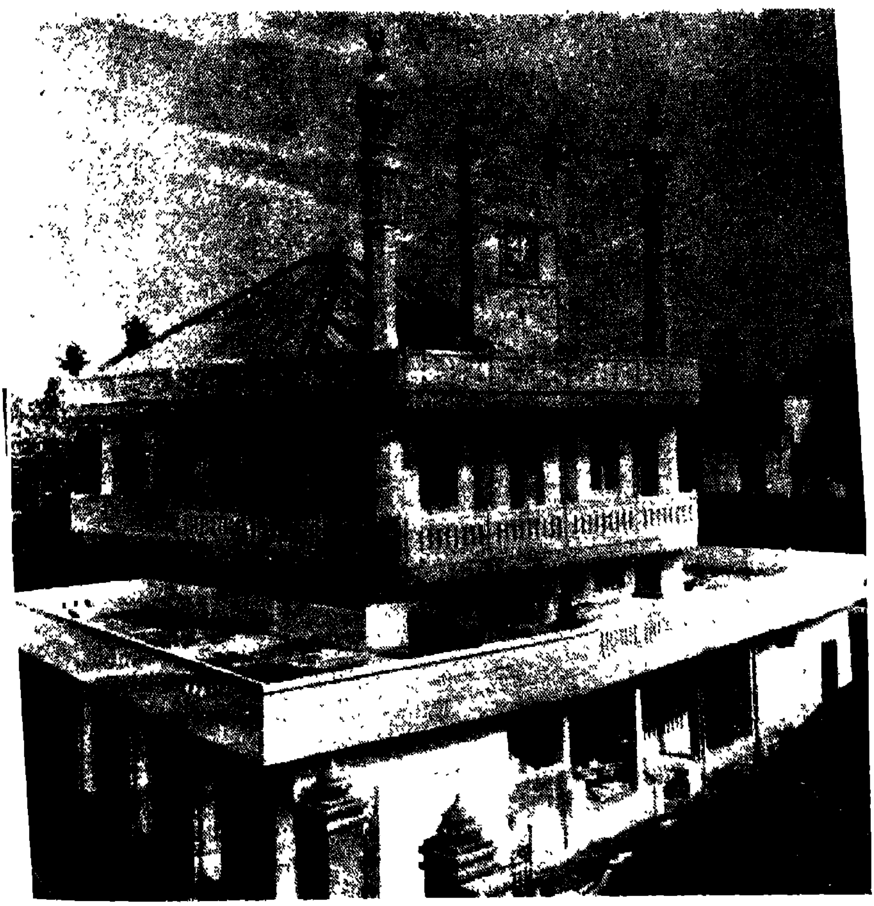
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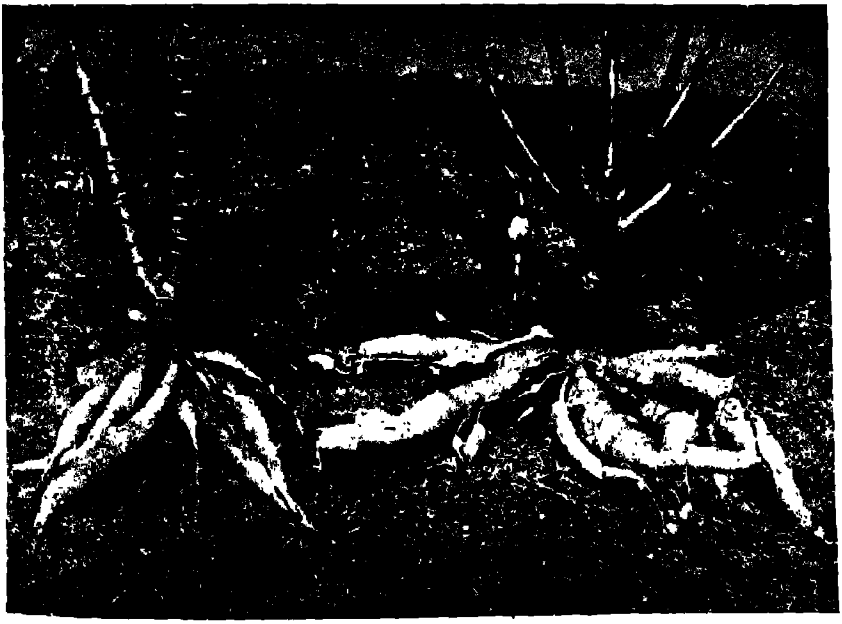




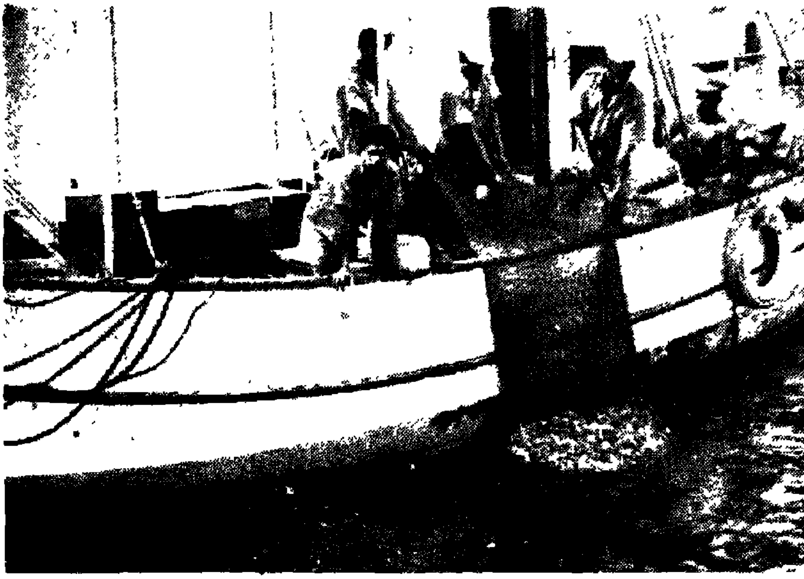
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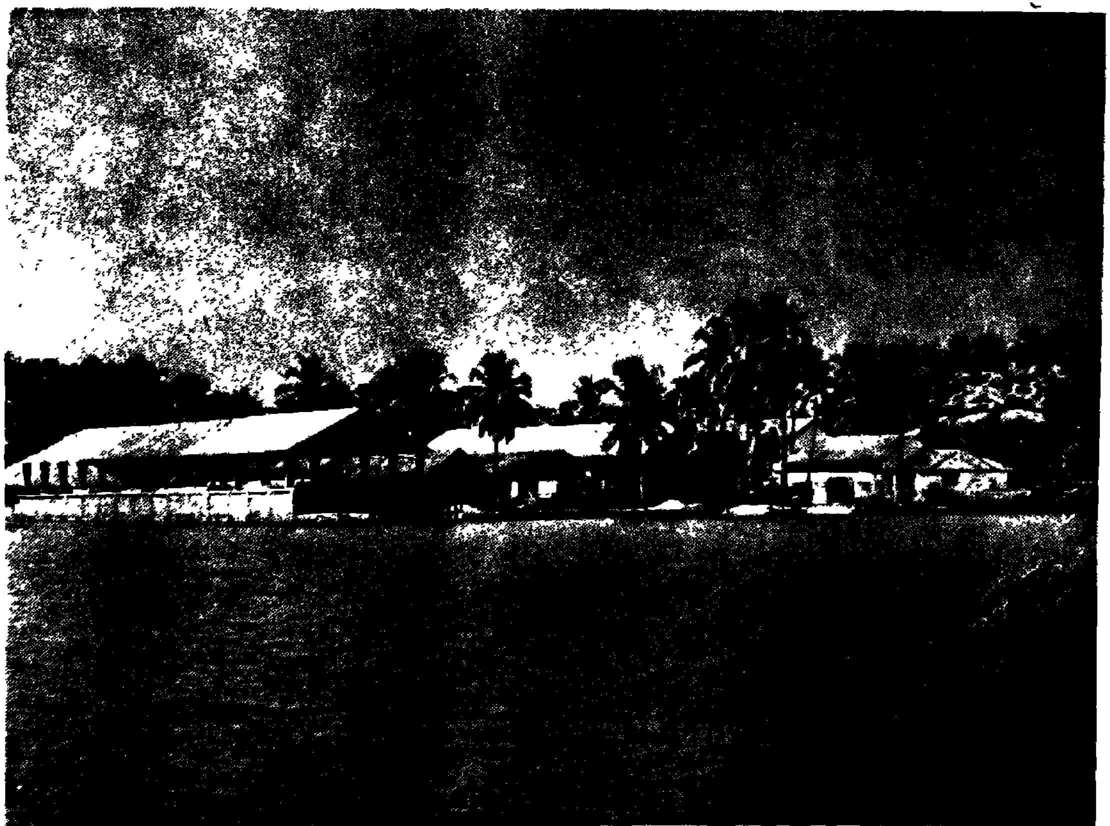
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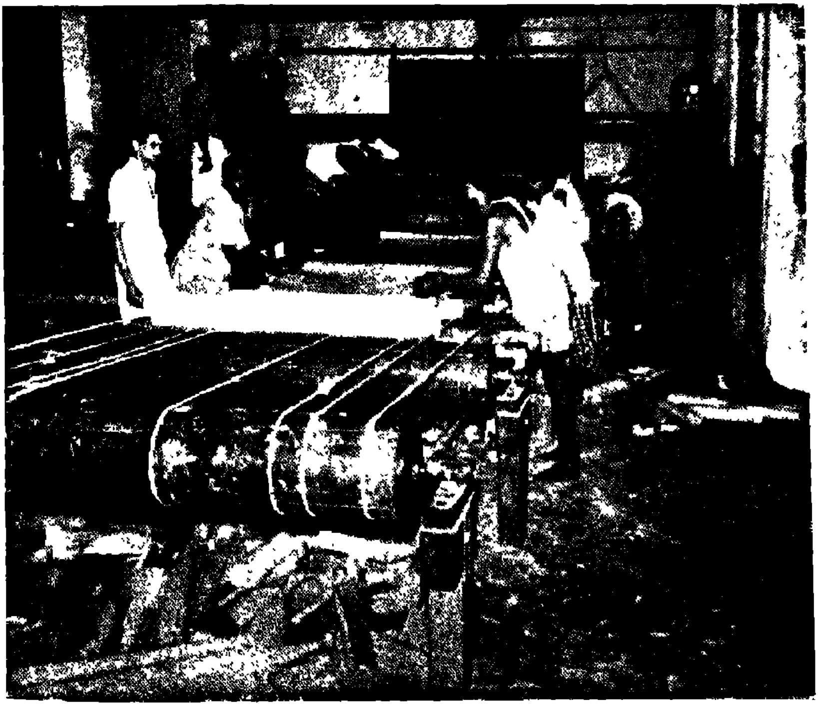
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